The most strange and admirable discouerie of the *three Witches of Warboys arraigned, conuicted and executed at the last Assises at Huntington, for the bewitching of the fiue daughters of Robert Throckmorton Esquier, and diuers other persons, with sundrie Diuelish and grieuous torments:*

And also for the bewitching to death of the Lady Crumwell, the like hath not bene heard of in this age.

LONDON
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To the Right worſhipfull Maſter *Edward Fenner one of the Iuſtices of* the court of her Maieſties bench.

IN theſe times (Right worſhipfull) wherein euery idle wit ſeekes to blaze abroade their vainneſſe, there ought to be no ſmall care for the reſtraining of triuiall Pamphlets, aſwell to exerciſe the Readers in matter neceſſary, as to cut off the writing of thinges needles. Among other your worſhips care, as well for the furthering of the truth of this arraignment, being Iudge at the tryall of the malefactors, as alſo the croſsing of whatſoeuer pamphlets ſhould haue beene preferd, reſpecting either the matter partly or confuſedly: emboldens me to preferre the patronage hereof to your Worſhip, not doubting but as you haue beene carefull aſwell for the tryall and iudgement of ſuch hainous offenders, and withall taken extraordinarie paines in perfecting this worke, for the printing to others example, you will likewiſe vouchſafe to pardon our boldnes.

To the Reader.

AT length, though long first, gentle Reader, this notable arrainment and examinations of Samuell, his wife, and daughter, for their sundry witchcrafts in Huntingtonshire are com to view. It hath for speciall cause bene thus long deferd, as well that nothing might escape vntoucht which they had done, as that euery thing might be throughly sifted least it should passe any way corruptly. These cares hauing perfected the worke, it is now past the presse to your presence, wherein I presume ye shall find matter as admirable as euer this age afforded.

A True and particular Obſeruation of a notable piece of Witchcraft practiſed by *Iohn Samuell* the Father, *Alice Samuell* the Mother, & *Agnes Samuell* their Daughter, of VVarboiſe in the Countie of Huntington, vpon fiue Daughters of *Robert Throckmorton* of the ſame towne and Countie Eſquire, and certaine other Maide-ſeruants to the number of twelue in the whole all of them being in one houſe: Nouember, 1589.

ABout the tenth of Nouember which was in the yeare 1589. Miſtris Iane one of the daughters of the ſaide Maſter Throckmorton being neere the age of tenne yeares, fell vppon the ſodaine into a ſtraunge kinde of ſickenes and diſtemperature of body, the manner whereof was as followeth. Sometimes ſhee would neeſe very lowd and thicke for the ſpace of halfe an howre together; and preſently as one in a great trance and ſound lay quietly as long, ſoone after ſhe would begin to ſwell and heaue vp her bellie ſo as none was able to bende her, or keepe hir downe, ſometime ſhee would ſhake one legge and no other part of her, as if the paulſie had bin in it, ſometimes the other, preſently ſhe would ſhake one of hir armes and then the other, and ſoone after hir head, as if ſhee had bine infected with the running paulſie: continuing in this caſe two or three dayes, amongſt other neighbours in the towne there came into the houſe of maſter Throckmorton, the foreſaid Alice Samuell to viſite this ſicke childe, who dwelled in the nert houſe on the North ſide of the ſaid Maſter Throckmorton. The child when the old woman came into the parlour was held in an other womans armes by the fire ſide, ſo ſhe went into the chimney corner and ſate

downe hard by the childe, the Grandmother of the childe, and the Mother beeing also present, shee had not beene there long, but the child grue something worse than she was at her comming, and on the sodaine cried (saying) Grandmother looke where the old witch sitteth (pointing to the said mother Samuell) did you euer see (said the Child) one more like a witch than she is? Take off her blacke-thumbed cappe, for I cannot abide to looke on her. The mother of the child little then suspecting any such matter (as afterwards fell out) was very angry with her child and rebuked her for saying so, & thinking that it might proceede of some lightnes in the childs braine by reason of her great neesing and want of sleepe, tooke her and laid her downe vpon a bed, and hanged curtaines against the windowes, thereby hoping to bring her into a sleepe, but much adoo they had to pacifie and quiet the child. The old woman hearing this sate still, and gaue neuer a word, yet looked very rufully, as afterwards was remembred by them that saw her. The child still continuing her manner of sickenes, rather worse than better, within two daies after, her parents sent the childs vrine to Cambridge to Doctor Barrow, a man well knowne to be excellent skilfull in Phisicke, who returned this answere: namely, that he did perceiue no kind of distemperature saue onely that he thought she might be troubled with wormes, and therefore sent his medicine accordingly, but the child was no whit the better; so within two daies after they sent againe to the same man, declaring vnto him the manner of her fits more at large: hee saide that the vrine which they then againe brought to him, shewed no such kind of disquietnes to be in her body: and to be the falling sickenes (which the Parents did suspect to be in the child) he would warrant her cleare from that disease. Then he sent other prescripts as he thought good to purge her body, which tooke no place nor preuayled any thing in the childe as he looked for. Then the Parents sent to him the third time (as his desire was to vnderstand howe his Phisicke wrought) declaring that it wrought nothing at all as hee looked for, neither that the child was any way amended. Then Maister Doctor looking again in the vrine, and perceiuing the childs body to bee in good temper (as hee then saide for any thing that hee sawe) demaunded whether there was no sorcery or witchcraft suspected in the childe, answere was made no. Then said he, all surely cannot be well, for it is not

possible,

possible, that the childs body should be distempered by any natural cause as then was declared to him, and no signe thereof at all to appeare in the vrine: notwithstanding for their better assurance (if the messenger would goe to any other skilfull man in the towne to take further aduise, hee saide hee woulde bee very well contented. Whereupon the messenger went to Master Butler, who considering of the vrine, and hearing the maner of the childs trouble said, that he thought it might be the wormes, which yet he did not perceiue to be by the vrine and if it were the wormes, that then it was a very strange kind of griefe to bee caused by them in that sort, and appointed the same medicine and phisicke (for the remedie) which before Doctour Barrow had prescribed: which being knowne was not applyed to the child, because Master Doctor Barrow had said that if Master Throckmorton (to whom hee wished very well as he then said, by reason of auncient acquaintance with him) woulde follow his aduice, he should not striue any more therewith by Phisicke, nor spend any more money about it: for he himselfe said, that he had some experience of the mallice of some witches, and he verily thought that there was some kind of sorcerie & witchcraft wrought towards his childe.

After which answere from Master Doctour Barrow, Master Throckmorton resolued himselfe to rest vppon Gods pleasure, not striuing any further by Phisicke to helpe his daughter; yet both himselfe and his wife were free from any such conceit of witchcraft which Master Doctour Barrow did suspect; vntill within one iust moneth after (the very day and houre almost obserued) two more of his daughters elder than the other by two or three yeares, fell into the same like extremities as the other Sister before them was in, and cryed out vpon Mother Samuell: saying, take her away, looke where shee standeth here before vs in a blacke thrumbd Cap, (which kind of Cap indeede shee did vsually weare, but shee was not then present) it is shee (saide they) that hath bewitched vs, and shee will kill vs if you doe not take her away. This thing did something moue the Parents, and strike into their minds a suspition of witchcraft, yet deuising with themselues for what cause it shoulde be wrought vpon them or their children, they could not imagine, for they were but newly come to the towne to inhabite, which was but at Michaelmas before, neither had they giuen any occasion (to their

knowledge) either to her or any other, to practise any such malice against them.

Within lesse than a Moneth after that, another Sister younger than any of the rest about the age of nine yeeres fell into the like case, and cried out of Mother Samuell as the other did.

Soone after Mistris Ioane the eldest Sister of them all, about the age of fifteene yeres, was in the same case & worse handled indéede than any of the other Sisters were, for shee having more strength than they, and striuing more with the Spirite than the rest, not being able to ouercome it, was the more greeuously tormented; for it forced her to néese, screetch & grone verie fearefullie, sometime it would heaue vp her bellie, and bounce vp her bodie with such violence, that had she not bin kept vpon her bed, it could not but haue greatly bruised her body, & many times sitting in a chaier hauing her fit, shee would with her often starting, and heauing, almost breake the chaier shé sate in: yet was there no striuing with them in this case, for the more they labored to helpe them & to kéepe them downe, the more violently they were handled, being depriued of all vse of their sences during their fits, for they could neyther sée, heare, nor féele any body; only crying out of Mother Samuell, desiring to haue her taken away from them, who neuer more came, for after shee perceiued her selfe to be suspected.

These kinde of fits would hold them, sometimes longer, sometimes shorter, either an howre or two sometimes halfe the day, yea the whole day, and many times they had fiue or seauen fits in an howre, yet when it pleased God to deliuer them of their fits, they neither knew what they had said, neither yet in what sort they had bin dealt withall as hereafter shall be declared in particuler.

After that Mistris Ioane had bin thus handled a while, the Spirite as it should séeme would sound in her eares some thinge which shé would declare in her fit, and amongst the rest, it shewed vnto her one time, that there should bee twelue of them which should be bewitched in that house, in one sorte or other, and named them all vnto her, being all women kinde, and seruantes in the house, her selfe and her Sisters being fiue of the number, all which proued afterwards very true, for they had all their seuerall griefes, and most of them afflicted in the same sort and manner as

these

these fiue Sisters were. Of whome and the manner of their faith, if it should bee written in perticuler how they were delt withall, there would be no end of this booke.

And this may suffice to be knowen concerning the seruantes, that when they first fell into their fits, they all cried out of Mother Samuell, as the Children did, saying take her away Mistris, for Gods sake take her away and burne her, for shee will kill vs all if you let her alone, hauing the same miseries and extremities that the children had, and when they were out of their fittes they knew no more than the children did, what either they had done or saide: and presently vpon their departure from Mistris Throckmortons house they were all verie well, as at any time before, & so haue continued euer since without suspicion of any such kind of vexations, and those seruantes that came in their places for the most part of them, they were afflicted in like sorte as the other for the space of two yeares together.

Vppon Fryday, being Saint Valentines euen, the thirteenth of Februarie in the two & thirtieth yeare of her Maiesties raigne, Gilbert Pickering of Tichmersh groue, in the countie of Northampton Esquier, being vncle to the said Childe, and hearing how strangely they were vexed and troubled went to VVarboyse (aswell to visite and see them, as also to comfort their Parentes: comming to the house where they were, founde them all at that present very well, as any children could bee and about one halfe howre after, the saide Maister Pickering was informed that one Mistris Andley and Maister VVhittell of Saint Iues, and others were gone to the house of Mother Samuell to perswade hir to come to see, and to visite the said Children, and because they tarried longe, it seemed to the saide Maister Pickering that they could not bring hir, although that the said Mother Samuell, had often saide, shee would come to the saide children, whensoeuer it pleased their Parents to send for her, and shee would venter hir life in water vp to the chin, and lose some parte of hir best bloud to doe them any good: but now as it seemed, hir minde was cleane altered, the cause was as it was suspected, for that all the said children (as it is said before) in their fits cried out of her, saying that she had bewitched them, and that she also feared, the common practise of scratching would be vsed on her, which nothing lesse

at that present was intended, for both the Parents and the said M. Pickering had take aduise of good Diuines of the vnlawfulnes thereof, wherefore the saide M. Pickering went to Mother Samuells house, aswell to see her, as also to perswade her that if shee were any cause of the Childrens trouble, that it might bee amended, who comming to the saide house, found there the foresaid Master Whittle Mistris Andley and others perswading her to visite the said Children, but shee with lowd speaches vtterly refused the same, whereuppon the saide Master Pickering tolde Mother Samuell that he had authoritie to bring her and if shee would not goe with him willingly and of her owne accord, he would force her, and compell her whether shee would or no, which he then did, togeather with her daughter Agnes Samuell, & one Cicely Burder, who were all suspected to bee witches, or at the least in the confederacie with Mother Samuell, and as they were going to the saide Master Throckmortons house, Master VVhettle Mistris Andley, and others going before Mother Samuell, Agnes Samuell, and the saide Cicely Burder in the middle part, and the saide M. Pickering behind them, the said Master Pickering perceiuing, that olde Mother Samuell would haue willingly talked with her daughter Agnes, but the said Master Pickering followed so neere behind them, that they could not conferre, and when they came at the doore of Master Throckmortons house, Mother Samuell vsed curtesie to the said Master Pickering, offering him to goe into the house before hir, which he refused, & in the entry of that same house (for either then or not at all) she thought that she should haue had time to speake to her daughter: the said Mother Samuell did thrust hir head as neere as she could to her daughters head, & saide these words. I charge thee doe not confesse any thing, which the saide Maister Pickering being behinde them perceiuing thrust his head as neere as he could betweene their heads whilest the words were spoken and hearing them, presently replyed to olde Mother Samuell, thou naughty woman, dost thou charge thy daughter not to confesse any thinge, nay saith she I said not so, but I charged her to hasten hir self home to get hir Father his dinner. In the meane time whilest these words were in speaking M. VVhittle Mistris Andley and others went into the house, and three of the Childrē standing in the hall by the fire perfecte well, but no sooner

had

had Mother Samuell entered the hall, but at one moment, the said three Children fell downe vpon the ground strangely tormented, so that if they had bin let lie still on the ground, they woulde haue leaped & sprung like a quick Pickerell newly taken out of the water their bellies heauing vp their head, & their heeles still touching the ground as though they had binne tumblers, and woulde haue drawen their heads and their heeles together backwards, throwing out their armes, with great grones most strangely to bee heard, to the greate greefe of the beholders, but not longe after they were thus fallen to the grounde, the saide Master Whittle tooke vp one of the said Children, which was Jane Throckmorton & carried her into an inward chamber laying her vpon a bed, and being a man of as great strength as most be this day in England and the child not aboue nine yeares old, yet he could not hold her downe to the bed, but that she would heaue vp her bellie farre bigger and in higher measure for her proportion, than any woman with child readie to be deliuered, her bellie being as hard as though there had binne for the present time a great loafe in the same, and in such manner it would rise and fall an hundred times in the space of an howre, her eies being closed as though shee had bin blind and her armes spred abroad, so stiffe and strong, that the strength of a man was not able to bring them to hir body: then the saide Master Pickering went into the Parlour where the saide childe was, and standing on the farther side of the bed from the childe vewing the order of her, presently the said child streatched forth her right arme, to that side of the bed next to the saide Master Pickering, and there scratching the couering of the bed said these wordes very often, Oh that I had her, Oh that I had her: whereupon the saide Master Pickering was in great admiration what the meaning of the saide words should tend vnto, and the rather for that the said Master Gilbert Pickering was of that opinion, that scratching was meerely vnlawfull, yet the said Master Pickering put his owne hand to the childes hand whilest she was speaking the wordes, but the childe feeling his hand woulde not scratch it, but forsoke his hand and scratched still on the bed, her face being turned on the contrary side from the said Master Pickering, her eies being closed, & Master Whittle lying in a manner with his whole body and waight ouer her, to hold downe her

belly.

bellie, fearing that she would haue burst her backe.

Not withstanding, the occasion being thus offered by the child, or rather by the Spirite in the childe to disclose some secret, whereby the Witches might be by some meanes or token made manifest and knowen, the saide Master Pickering went into the Hall and tooke Mother Samuell by the hand (who went as willingly as a Beare to the stake) and brought her to the further side of the bed from the childe, who lay scraping with her nailes, on the bed couering, saying, Oh that I had her, then the said M. Pickering in verie soft speaches (so that the childe could not heare) said to Mother Samuell put your hande to the childes hande, but shee would not then the said Master Pickering for examples sake, put his hand to the childes hand, so did also Mistris Andley & others at the same instant, but the childe would scarce touch, much lesse scratch any of their handes, then the said Master Pickering without either malice to the woman, confidence, or opinion in scratching (onely to tast by this experiment whereto the childes workes would tend) tooke Mother Samuels hande and thrust it to the childes hand, who no sooner felt the same but presently the childe scratched her, with such vehemencie that her nailes brake into Spylles with the force and earnest desire that she had to reuenge: whilest the childe was thus scratching, the saide Master Pickering did couer Mother Samuels hande with his owne hande, to trie what the child would doe in this extraordinarie passion, but the child would not scratch his hande, but felt to and fro vpon the bed for that which shee missed, and if by any meanes shee coulde come with her hande, or but with one of her fingers to touch Mother Samuells hand, shee woulde scratch that hande onely and none other: Yea, sometimes whilest the saide Master Pickering with his hande did couer mother Samuels hand, the saide childe would put one of her fingers betweene the fingers of the saide Master Pickering, and scratch mother Samuels hande that lay nethermost with that one finger, all her other fingers lying on the hand of the said Master Pickering without mouing.

And in this passion if at any time mother Samuels hand had beene hidden or withdrawen from the childe, shee woulde haue mourned and shewed apparant tokens of dislike, as though there had beene some great discurtesie offered, and this is to bee noted

for

for a most certaine truth, for so it was by the saide Master Pickering at the Assises in Huntington giuen in euidence, that the Childs eyes were closed, so that shee could not see any person, for so was the order of their Fittes; and though shee at that present coulde haue seene, yet the childes heade and necke were so turned backeward into Master Whettels bosome who couered (as before is saide) both her head, face, and body, with his body, in such sort and so close, that it was vnpossible for the child to see the company which stood on the further side of the bed.

This beeing done the saide Master Pickering departed out of that place into an other Parlour, where there was a woman holding one of the other children, which child as the said master Pickering passed by, strapes the womans Apron that held her, saying: Oh that I had her, Oh that I had her. Then the said master Pickering went into the hall, and did bring Cicely Burder to the saide childe, and for breuity sake, as the saide master Pickering did with mother Samuell to the first child, so did he to Cicely Burder, and as the first child did to mother Samuell, so this second child did to Cicely Burder in all respects.

There was a third childe also at that present in the hall, which spake the same wordes, but the father of the children, and master Doctor Dorington Parson of the same parish, came then into the house, not allowing that which was done, by reason whereof the third was not put in proofe.

The same night after supper, the children being all very well, and out of their Fittes, master Doctor Dorington made motion to haue some prayers before the company departed, the company then kneeling downe, Doctor Dorington began to pray; but no sooner had he vttered the first word, but euen at one instant of time all the children fell into their Fittes, with such terrible strikes and strange neelings, so wonderfully tormented, as though they should haue beene torne in pieces, which caused Doctour Dorington to stay in the middest of his prayers, and saide these wordes or the like in effect, were we best to goe any further? but hee had no sooner made stay, and his breath stayed from praying, but the children were quiet (but still in their Fittes) then hee began to pray againe, and then the children or rather the wicked spirite in the children forced them as before, this was prooued often in the time of

prayer for when hee had made an ende of any one prayer the children ceased and were quiet: when he began to pray, they began to scrike: when he ended, they ended.

The next day being Saint Valentines day, the saide Master Pickering brought home to his house at Tichmersh Groue aforesaid, one of the said children called Elizabeth Throckemorton being in hir fitte, who no sooner beeing on horsebacke, and out of Warboyse Towne, but shee was well, and so continued till shee came into the said Master Pickerings house, but no sooner had she entred into the house, but that the fitte tooke her sodainely gasping beeing not able to speake, onely thus it commeth, shee pitched her selfe backewards, all the ioints of her backe bone being as it were drawen together, thrusting out her belly so strongly, that none could bend her backe againe, being very strong and heauy, shaking her limmes and oftentimes her heade when it riseth so high, but specially her armes, like to those which struggle and plunge betwirt life and death, being both dumbe, deafe and blinde, her eyes closed vp. Now this held her not a quarter of an howre, but with a gaspe shee came againe to her selfe, stroking her eyes as though she had beene but a sleepe.

Sometimes beeing taken in her feete, shee is but deafe onely when shee can speake, or rather (as wee thinke) the spirite in her, but very vainely, and she can see also but with a small glimmering when if you looke vpon her, ye would deeme her to haue no sight at all. Sometimes also shee can heare onely, and not euery body, but some one whom shee liketh and chooseth out from the rest, sometimes shee seeth onely, and as plainely as any other, but neither heareth nor speaketh any thing, her teeth beeing set in her heade, sometimes both hearing and seeing very well, and yet not able to speake.

Aboue all things shee delighteth in play: shee will picke out some one body to play with her at Cardes, and but one onely, not hearing, seeing, or speaking to any other, but being awake shee remembreth nothing that she did, heard, or spake, affirming that shee was not sicke but onely slept.

Shee continued well vntill night, and before Supper in time of thankesgiuing, it vered her very strangely, taking her at the very name of grace, and holding her no longer than grace was in

saying:

saying: Shee sate very well at the Table, but no sooner had shee put vp her knife, but it pitched her backe wardes, then beeing taken from the table, shee was well vntill thankesgiuing, all which time shee was most grieuously vexed and no longer. Afterwardes shee was very quiet and well vntill motion was made of prayers, all which time it seemed as though it woulde haue rent her in pieces, with such scritching, and outcries, and vehement neesing, as that it terrified the whole company, but prayers beeing ended shee was quieted, but still in her fitte.

Then Master Pickering and others that were acquainted with the manner of it, saide, that if any should reade the Bible, or any other Godly booke before her, it woulde rage as before so long as they readd, but because it was a thing very strange, and therefore hardly beleeued, one did take a Bible and readd the first Chapter of saint John the first verse: At the hearing whereof shee was as one beside her minde, when he that readd held his peace shee was quiet: when he readd, againe it tormented her: when hee ceased, it ceased: this diuers did proue many times.

May at the motion of any good worde, as if any that stoode by chanced to name God, or prayed God to blesse her, or named any word that tended to God or Godlines, it raged all one as if any had read or prayed by her, and thus she was carried to bed still continuing in her Fitte.

In the morning being the Sabbaoth day, shee came downe into the Hall towards prayer time, and being asked whether she would tarry the time of prayers or not, shee answered that shee would doe as they woulde haue her. Then was shee asked whether shee could reade, shee said that shee could once, but shee had almost forgotten now: Then beeing asked further whether shee had prayed that day, shee made answere it would not suffer her: then whether shee vsed to pray at home, shee answered that it would not giue her so much time.

Then one saide to her, sith it will not suffer you to pray, nor any other (seeming to haue eares) pray to your selfe secretly in your hart and spirite, and beginning to tell her that God vnderstoode the inward sighs and grones of the hart, as well as the lowdest cries of the mouth; Shee sodainely fell into her Fitte beeing more strongly and strangely tormented than euer shee was before,

and being carried away, her Fit continued and increased all prayers time albeit shee was out of the hearing, with such vehement cries, scritching, and continuall neesing, that many times prayers were constrayned to be ceased for the time, so much it amazed the whole company: prayers beeing ended, shee came to her selfe with a gaspe, wiping her eyes being presently as well as any body, as though it had neuer bene shée.

Shée came downe to dinner, and during the time of grace, it held her againe (which was vsuall) yet will it suffer better another to say grace than her selfe, but no body well: At dinner time it plaide with her, for sometimes shee hath merry Fits, putting her hand besides her meate, and her meate besides her mouth, mocking her, and making her misse her mouth, whereat shee would sometimes smile, and sometimes laugh excedingly, and amongst many other things this is worthy to bee noted, that beeing in her Fit shée looked far more sweetely and chearefully than when shée is awake: and although beeing tormented most pittifully, that it would haue grieued any to see it, yet beeing once awaked and out of her Fit shée is as well as any body. At length Master Gilbert Pickering called to minde an experiment which was made at Warboyse, which was, that if one tooke any of those children in their Fits, and carried them into the Churcharde which is adioyning to the house, they presently awaked, but bring them in again they were as before, carry them forth, and they came to themselues: goe into the house and immediately their Fit tooke them, and this was as often found true as proued. Hereupon we proued the like with this childe, and carried her out of the house, and shée presently recouered, but within the house it tooke her againe.

But the certainety of this failed vs some (as Sathan is most vncertaine) yet for three daies space, if shée were carried abroad in her Fit, it would leaue her, and not take her againe vntill shée was brought into the house.

Hereof we reioyced greatly with thankesgiuing to God for the childes release in some sort. Hereupon arose a question amongst diuers that were present at that time what they thought thereof, some said one thing some another, in the ende it was thought that the spirit had it not in commission to molest her abroad, because he is but a Vassaile to the wicked purpose of her that detaineth him.

As

As the Angell of God ſaid vnto Lot, I can doe nothing till thou be come thither, much leſſe may the Angels of Sathan goe beyond their commiſſion. But when this imagination was concluded vpon, and once vttered foorth, the ſaid experiment preſently failed; For now contrarily when ſhe was carried abroad, you would haue thought the childe had beene in daunger of rending and vtter ſpoyling, which did greatly feare and amaze the beſt that did ſee it. But it would be too long to ſhew all the tricks and colluſions of ſathan in wreſting and ouer-ruling all the partes and members of this childe, yet ſome of the prancks of his new-fangled nature ſhall be reported, who is the prince of this world, and a ring-leader of newe faſhions.

The obſeruations of certaine daies follow, from the ſixteenth of Februarie to the 26. of that moneth, ſhe was taken moſt commonly fiue or ſixe times a day, ſometimes ten times, ſometimes twice, ſomtimes once, and not vntill night. On the ſeuenteenth of februarie ſhe could not refraine from gaſping and gaping, and being demaunded the cauſe, ſhe anſwered, that it forced hir thereunto. She was then perſwaded to ſtriue againſt it, and to ſhut her mouth, or to ſtop it, but ſtill ſhe could not refraine, vntill in the end, by much ſtrife and contention ſhe ouercame it, yet not before it was ſaid in her hearing, that the ſpirite was thought to be a ſpirite of the aire, entring by a breath, and departing by a breath, becauſe it was an vſuall ſigne of hir preſent awaking out of hir fitte and recouery, when ſhee ſtretched hir armes, often gaſping, and long, with a little rubbing of hir eies, and thus this continuall gaſping ceaſed with her, but only at ſuch times, as when ſhe awaked out of hir fit.

On the 26. of Februarie ſhee read, and ſong Pſalmes, beeing well all the day vntill the euening, when being in hir fit ſhee cried out vpon the aforeſaid mother Samuell, fearing and crying, that ſhe would put a mouſe into hir mouth, ſometimes a cat, a frog, and ſometimes a Toad, clapping hir hands before hir mouth. Sodainly in this feare, ſhe ſtart out of ones armes that helde hir, and ran away out of the doores into another roome, where ſodainly hir legs failed hir, and was catched vp by one that followed hir, ſtill crying away with your mouſe mother Samuel, I will none of your mouſe after which time ſhe imagined that ſhe had a mouſe in her belly.

The 27. of Februarie shee was partly well, yet in her fit al the day long, being broad awake, yet nodding at euery second word, as if she had bene drowsie many times with meat in her mouth, or whatsoeuer she did, she gaue a nod with the head, and that very low euery minute. This drowsie fit as sleeping and yet awake, continued neere two daies.

The 28. whereas before it bended her backwards, now it bended her forwards, coueting to touch the ground, as if shee would haue stood vpon her head, turning her hands cleane backwards: and if any mooued her contrary to her bending, all that present she would cry out, beeing in danger of breaking her lims, neither were any able to bend her straight.

The first day of March at dinner time, she fel into such sore neesing about fortie times together, & faster then one could wel count them, in so much that blood issued out of her nose and mouth, but al night being in bed, shee fell into the most sorrowfull fit of all, weeping with sobs and sighs most pitifully to heare with a strong imagination, crying and could not be appeased (for her senses were all benummed) saying that now the Witches would kill her Father, destroy both her and al her sisters, this continued aboue two houres after in a sleep she fell into a sore bleeding, at the least a pint at both the nosethrils and mouth.

In the morning being awaked she remembred no such thing, nor that she bled at all. The second of March she had all merry fits, ful of exceeding laughter (as they were al often times in their fits) and that so hartely and excessiuely, as that if they had bene awaked they would haue bene ashamed thereof, being also full of trifling toyes, and some merry iests of her owne deuising, whereat she would force both the standers by, and her selfe to laugh greatly. In this fit she did choose one of her vncles to goe to cards with her, as desirous therefore to see the end of it, they plaied together: soone after there was a book brought and laid before her, whereat presently she flung herselfe backwards, which being taken away, she presently recouered and plaied againe: this was often prooued and found true. And thus playing at cards, her eies were almost cleane shut, but the sight of her eies were cleane couered, she saw the cards and nothing els, she knew her vncle and no man els, she hard and answered him, and none other, she perceiued him when he plaied foule, or did steal from her,

her, her counters or cards, but any other might take them out of her hands, she not seeing or feeling. Sometimes she would choose another, whom she did see, and heare, sometimes a little child, but euer one and no more in any one fit. The fift day of March she fell into a mourning fit, and longed to goe home to her fathers: on the first day one of her fathers men came ouer to Tichmersh groue, whome she had often called for in her fit to carry her to Warboyse to her Fathers, saying, that if she were but halfe way, she knew that she shuld be well, desirous therfore to proove it, he carried her ouer horse back towards Warboyse, & being scarce gone a bow shot, at a pond side she awaked, marueiling where she was, not knowing any thing, but no sooner the horse head was turned backe, but shee fell into her fit againe. This was often prooued at that time to bee true, now this also fell out infallible: for three daies after, and no longer, so often as she was carried to the pond (as many straungers desired to see her well and out of her fit) shee awaked, and was very well, but returning her face onely she fell againe.

The eight day of March she caught a new kind of going antique wise, she could goe very well two steppes, but the third shee halted downe-right, giuing a beck with her head as low as her knees, and as shee was sitting by the fire, she sodainly start vp, saying, that shee would goe to Warboyse, but shee was staied at the portall doore, where going out with a nod, hit her forehead against the latch, which raised a knob the bignesse of a Walnut, & being carried afterwards to the pond, where awaking shee asked how her face came so hurt. There shee was left all day well, playing in the company of other children at bowles and other sport (for the more foolish sport shee vseth, the more the spirite spareth her: but so soone as any motion was made of comming into the house, it presently tooke her, so that she was neuer out of her fit within dores for twelue daies together eating and drinking in her fit, but neither, seeing, hearing, nor yet vnderstanding, cleane without memory, yet speaking, or rather the spirite within her. The 9. of March shee could not go but hop, for the one leg was drawne vppe, and would not touch the ground by a foot, and then being carried to the pond, she awaked not, and her leg was restored. This failed not for other three daies, but stil she went but vpon one leg in the house.

The tenth day after she had eaten some milke, shee listned and

hearkned

hearken ed (as often she would doe) demaunding whether no body heard the spirit in hir belly lapping the milke which she had eaten.

Then she began to dislike all bad things, and delighted in reading saying, that the spirite loued no goodnes: therefore shee burned all the cards that she could come by, shee would read when you would haue thought that she could not haue seene the booke, but somtimes it quite closed vp hir eies, sometimes it tied hir tongue, sometimes it set her teeth, sometime it would fling away the booke, especially at any good word, if she could catch the booke, and be able to hold it still by striuing, she would clap it fast to hir face, vntil she could see, for sometimes in her reading, it would fling hir backward, & swell hir belly in such sort and straunge wise, that two strong men were not able to holde her downe, in so much that shee would complaine hir selfe, saying, can no man hold me downe, yet the childe was not then ten yeares olde.

The eleuenth day one chanced to aske her, or rather the spirite in hir: loue you the word of God': whereat shee was sore troubled and vered. But loue you Witchcraft? it seemed content: or loue you the Bible': Againe, it shaked hir, but loue you Papistry': it was quiet. Loue you prayers': it raged. Loue you the Masse': it was stil. Loue you the Gospell? againe it heaued vp hir belly: so that what good thing soeuer you named, it misliked, but whatsoeuer concerning the Popes paltrie, it seemed, pleased, and pacified.

The twelfth day she was carried vnto the Pond, but shee halted still, for there is no trueth or certaintye in the Authour of lies.

The 13. 14. and 15. dayes she passed away the time in a heauy fitte, on the 16. day in the afternoon, she start vp suddainly and ran out of the place where she was, and awaked in the way, but at fiue of the clocke it tooke her againe, vntill the nert day three of the clocke: but at fiue it tooke her againe: and this also fayled the third day: yet sitting at supper, she awaked, wherat one sayd, thanks be to God: at which very words, she fel backwards into her fit again.

It followeth to declare, as it hath bene further very trulie obserued in this childe Elizabeth Throckmorton, remaining at Tichemarsh groue, that euery moneth from March to Julie she hath had some veration of body, which is termed by the name of fits, because of the diuers maners thereof, so that she was neuer

cleare

cleare and perfectly freed as it may be thought since her first visitation, although in some of the moneths she had but only one fit. And now because it seemeth to giue a fresh one-set, and a newe attempt vpon her, we haue noted in perticular wise how she hath bin diuersly handled.

For the manner of it, you haue heard before to be very straunge, it is first perceiued commonly to be in her belly, by the great swelling and heauing vp therof, from thence it ariseth vp into her throte stopping the passage of her breath, so that shee is sometimes forced to draw the same with great difficulty and straightnes. Remaining there, it tieth her tong many times, and setteth her teeth together: It will further ascend vp into her head, and shake the same as if she had the paulsie, benumming all her parts, and depriuing her of the vse of her senses, sometimes it will be in her armes and hands after the same manner, sometimes in one place, many times in another, and sometimes in all places at once.

For the continuance of it it hath bin either short or longer, milde or more vehement (as it pleased God to permit) for it hath alwais from the beginning kept a very mutable and vncertaine course in dealing with them.

Now the 29 of July 1590. she had a fit from noone vntil night sleeping the most part of the time, vpon the thirtie shee had three seuerall fits in the afternoone going to bed in her fit, but all of them were verie milde and without any such vehement plunges, and excessiue neezing as in former times.

Vpon the second of August presently after dinner she fel very sodainly (as many times before) into her ordinary maner of fits, not hauing so much liberty as to say it commeth, which words she commonly vsed to vtter in great hast imediatly before the assault, which was very strong and troublesome at this time: yet towards the end, she fel into a sleepe, and so continued vntil supper time, when awaking she was very sicke, and complained that she was griped at her heart and belly, and indeed no marueil, for it had sore vexed her; In this sickly fit shee remained the three nert daies following, eating very litle, yet without any apparant signe of swelling or other troblesome fits vntil the 5. day, when she had some few twitches, and soone after awakened, yet not ceasing to complaine of griefe & paine at her hart and belly. But the next day morning all paine ceased,

and then shee fell to her meat cheerfully, and was verie well as at any time before. But Sathan the malignant spirite (for it is hee without question that disquieted the childe) enuied her long and good estate, for the same night, before she went to bed, she had two grieuous fittes, which caused many teares to fall from her eies, as also from them that stood by, and so she was caried to bed. The next morning she was found to be in her fitte, and so continued the whole day, being in her fitte, and in her bed, lying as one in a drowsie sleepe, eating and drinking in her fitte, speaking very little, but sometimes saying, that she would goe to Warboyse, for there her sisters were well (as shee saide) and named some of them whereas when she is out of her fitte, she is loth to bee drawne to anie place from Tichmarsh greene.

The next day which was the 13. of August, she was taken vp in her fit and made readie, but when shee should come to moue her selfe, the one of her legs was drawne vp close to her bodie, almoste a foote from the ground, so she sate in a chaire al the day receiuing her meate at due times when it was brought vnto her, yet neuer mooued her countenance, appearing as one in a traunce, bereft of sense and motion, yea, and life (to looke vpon) saue that shee breathed: yet would she of her selfe (for she could neither heare, see, nor speake to any) lift vp her handes a litle in token of thanksgiuing after meat receaued, (which is not to be omitted) because it was comfortable to the beholders.

The 14. of August she was caried abroad into the open aire to see if she would come to her selfe (as diuers times in her former fits she had done) but there is now no change in her, she is the same without the doze as within, and now shee beginneth to complaine on that side whereof the leg is drawne vp, if any doe but touch her thereon, shee will whimper and grone as if it were sore, yet there is no appearance of outward hurt, if you touch her on the other side, shee will laugh after a iesting manner, and looke merily in countenance, but there is not one worde with her all the day long, from this day vntill the eight of September, for she was a whole moneth together in this drowsie fitte. Manie thinges happened woorthy the remembrance, as that sometimes shee would sow all the day long, and mourne if her worke were taken from her, sometimes she would winde yarne, or knit, but neuer cast vp her

eies

ries or countenance, some daies againe shee would bee merrie and lightsome, finding many things wherein she would take delight, as playing with her cosens (children in the house) at some light and childish sportes, wherein children doe passtime themselues, and all in her fit, as if she were as perfect as any of them.

Sometimes againe shee would be so heauy and drooping, that she could not sit in her chair, but would cast her selfe on the ground, and so lie with a cushen or pillow vnder her head halfe the day together. Sometimes she would take a booke and read either chapters or prayers very well, but whensoeuer she misteamed a worde, or slipped in any thing, shee could not heare any that corrected her, though he had spoken neuer so lowd, yet if he had pointed to the place with his finger, or giuen some other signe, shee would haue gone backe and read ouer the place againe, sometimes reading it true, sometimes not: Againe, when she came to this word Sathan or the deuil she should haue much to doe, to passe it quietly, or to keepe the booke in her hands, for it would shake her armes, and straine her body very sore, insomuch that shee would oftentimes say, wilt thou not suffer me to say my prayers? Wilt thou not suffer me to read? (answering) I will say them, I will read, with often and vehement repetition, and would in no case forsake her booke, except by great strife and violence, it cast it foorth of her hands (as many times it did) yet would she receiue it againe, being brought vnto her, and many times fetch it her selfe: and in the end after much contention and much striuings shee should read quietly: and thus shee was vsed for the most part euery night when she went to bed, but especially in time of her prayers.

Further, for the space of two or three daies, if Sathan had beene named, or the deuill vnto her, it would haue troubled her, and so often as those wordes had beene named, so many twitches, which was very straunge to beholde: Also at the naming of Mother Samuell (which will not bee forgotten) it would shake her by the shoulders and armes, as if it would shiuer her in peeces, giuing signes of great dislike thereof, and threatning as if there were some mysterie in it. And sometimes her verye name would cast her presentlie into her fitte, and beeing in the middest thereof, shee would say, could you not haue holde your tongue.

I was well inough before you named her, with many such like speeches, and thus shee continued long in this drowsie manner, speaking very little all the time but that shee would say sometimes that she should not be well vntill shee came to VVarboyse, or a mile vpon the way, and then shee should be well. One time she asked the question whether any body in the house had slept so long as shee had done, saying that it had beene a long night with her, for shee had then continued so fiue dayes, and if euery body had slept so long as shee had done (meaning the seruants of the house) why then I woonder (quoth shee) howe all the worke could bee done.

Vpon the last day of August, shee had a very sodaine and sore Fitte presently after dinner, for shee cryed out very grieuously to beare, that mother Samuell stoode before her in a white sheete with a blacke Childe sitting vppon her shoulders, saying: looke where shee is, looke where shee is, away with your Childe mother Samuell I will none of your Childe, trembling euery ioint, and sweating maruellously, calling vpon her Uncle maister Pickering and others to take her from mother Samuels Childe, and with such lamentable speeches because no body would helpe her, that it did greatly grieue those that were present. After this Fitte ended her teeth were set in her heade, by which meanes her speech also was taken from her it may bee, because shee disclosed more than mother Samuell would vouchsafe to haue knowne, after a while shee greatly mourned inwardly and wept very sore, often putting her hand to her mouth, and shaked her head. This closing of her mouth did greatly affright vs all, because it could not bee that shee shoulde naturally bee preserued without the ordinary meanes of foode, yet the often experience we had receiued of Gods mercifull prouidence and care towards the Childe, vanquished dispaire in vs, yet could it not but greatly grieue euen a mercilesse Tyrants hart (but that the Diuell hath no mercy) to see howe the Childe wept and lamented, many times putting her hande to her mouth, and lifting vp her heade, as giuing thrifting signes of an hungry desire for meate and drinke.

Towards night when shee should goe to bedde, it pleased God (whose helpe is alwaies at hande, when hope was in greatest distresse) that this meanes was found out, the Childe wanted a

twig,

teeth, whereat by the helpe of a quill, shee sucked vp some milke, and by the same meanes receiued her drinke. After this was done, shee greatly reioyced in countenance and outward signes for shee coulde not speake, but clapping her handes on her breast and belly (as it may be thought) for that shee had found out a way to deceiue the malice of her enemy: For the children in all their assaults, though they toke the foyle for a time, yet whensoeuer it pleased God a little to ease them, though but in part yet woulde they greatly triumph in wordes if they coulde speake, as to say I defie thee thou wicked spirite, doe what thou canst, thou canst doe me no hurt, thou seest that God is stronger than thou, thou art as good to let mee alone, I am glad at my hart that thou canst not ouercome me, with many such like speeches, though in the very vttering of them, the enemy seemed to checke & to torment them for it, by straining their body, and stopping the course of their speech, and if they could not speake, then would they reioyce in countenance, and outward signes, and this kind of triumphing after the extremity of the fitte be past, is true in them all, from the eldest to the youngest.

To returne to this Childe, who was carried to bedde in her Fitte, and in time of her prayers, as shee inwardly mourned them in her minde, was exceedingly tormented, yet woulde shee not cease vntill shee had finished them, which rule for the most part she vsually kept, for though her torments increased neuer so much, yet would shee not long surcease her prayers, but after some release and quietnes giuen to her of her enemy, shee woulde goe forward vntill shee had ended them which was (no doubt) a good motion of the spirite and grace of God in the Childe.

The next morning which was the first of September shee was taken vp in the same manner, that shee lay before, her teeth still remaining fast set together, yet not so: but that shee might receiue milke by a quill as before. At dinner time shee had a little struggling with her Fitte in the end whereof her teeth were lapped one ouer the other, whereas before they were set but one against the other.

This was againe a further degree of Sathans malitious enmity for now hath he closed her teeth and her mouth so fast together that there is no vse and helpe left for the quill, this spitefull

and mercilesse dealing of Sathan with this Childe had much more troubled vs than it did, but that we were verily perswaded that the malice of the Diuell, and of his wicked Instrumentes whosoeuer were limitted and his mischieuous purposes towardes the childe, so farre forth restrained, as that although he might endanger her health (which many times he did) yet should he neuer actually endammage the same, and much lesse her life, hereof we haue had very comfortable experiences. For oftentimes (as you may reade before) shée hath béene so pitteously racked in her body, with such sodaine heauings and swellings in her belly, as if it would haue broken her backe, or rent her ioynts in sunder, such extreame néesing, and that so thicke and often together after a scréeching manner, filling all the house with her noyse as that bloude hath gushed out of her nose, and some part at her mouth. Yet for all this when the Fit was ouerpassed, and shée come againe to her selfe, shée hath béene as one of vs, chéerefull in countenance, for if you had asked how shée had done, shée would'e haue smiled vpon you: if where shée had béene her common answere was in a sléepe or dreame. If a strong man in his perfect health had strugled in such a storme, and abid such a brunt but one howre, as shée did halfe a day together or longer, it had béene no wonder if hee had béene sicke a moneth after: No not if death it selfe had followed presently vpon it, so very strange things suffered this childe. But now shée is left destitute of all outward meanes to relieue the body and to preserue life because her mouth is closed vp. It was hereupon therefore thought good by diuers to make some tryals and experiments (as they had oftentimes done) before in such like cases, and chiefly because the childe had many times said that shée should not bee well vntill shée came to Warboyse or a mile vpon the way. Shée therefore accompanied with Mistris Pickering her Aunt, was taken vp and carried to horseback, whereat shée presently ioyed much (as if shée had perceiued what had béene done, for making signes with her hands shée pointed to haue the horse goe on forwards.

Now when shée had gone almost a mile onwarde, though not the direct way to Warboyse, yet the same way shée came from thence to Tichmarsh greene as it fell out (for it was vnknowne to any in the company at that present) shée beganne to chéere vp her

selfe

selfe very much, and her teeth were forthwith untied: So that shee saide, I am not yet gone a mile, I shall straight way, and then I shall bee well. Presently after this, when shee had gone a good mile (as it may be thought) shee rubbed her eyes and came to her selfe and was very well as shee saide, but marueiled exceedingly both howe shee came thither, and wherefore at the, company also, and the strangenes of the place. Afterwards alighting from the horse, her legge was restored to her, whereof shee had no vse of three weekes before, and desired her Aunt to pray to God to blesse her. Thus shee walked on forwards in very good and perfect estate, there was meate brought for her, whereof shee eate some part and dranke also with good alacrity and cheerefulnes. Shee tooke a prayer booke and readd of it a good space, but when shee came at this word Sathan it troubled her fore by shaking and wringing of her shoulders. And to see the wallike of the Diuell, there was no sooner mention made of her going home, but shee was straight way snatched, and shaken in her shoulders, armes, and body, as it would haue shuffled her together, a little after shee arose, and in the very turning of her face homewardse, her eyes were shut, her legs were taken from her, her teeth fast set in her heade, her belly began to heaue and swell in maner as vsually before when her fit set vpon her. Now so long as shee is walking forwards from the groue as it were to Warboyse, so that you speake not of going backe againe (for the motion onely will cause her to start) shee is very well and merry without any signe of dislike so long as either you are going on or standing still. But so soone as euer you shall turne her about to go homewards shee presently sinketh downe in your armes as one fallen into a sodaine swounde, struggling betwixt life and death, and so continueth striuing a little space vntill shee bee cleane ouercome, if you in the meane time turne not her face againe, which if you doe, as one awaking from sleepe shee is returned to her former estate. This was proued many times at that present both on foote and on horseback in the sight of many, but in the ende (there was no remedy) with great griefe wee brought her backe againe the same way wee carried her forth: A deade childe to looke vppon for any sense or motion, but in countenance very sweete and amiable, for in all these extremities her complexion (which naturally is fayre) was no whit altred. At

night

night, it pleased God in despight of mischiefe and malice, that shee receiued milke againe by a quill in the same manner as before, yet not without some straining and straightnes, because the place was closer shut than at the first: So that the childe euen then remained as a suckling and sucking child, for shee eateth no meat within the house, which is substantiall and solide. But such as passeth through a quill: and if any meat bee brought vnto her, shee will make signes to goe abroad, pointing towards that place where shee is wont to awake. The next day therefore after dinner, she was carried forth againe, where when shee came at the very selfe same place (as one would thinke within the length of a Pole) shee awakened, as one comming out of a long sleepe, for she would rub her eies a little before, and gaspe once or twice stretching forth her armes, and these were common fore-running signes when she came to her naturall estate, there she did eat her meat very hartely with a good appetite, to the great ioy of her self, and of those that were present, but when she was satisfied, and about to giue thanks, then Sathan appeared in his likenes, for he laboured to prohibite and hinder that good exercise, by snatching the word as it were out of her mouth, and cutting them in the halfe, by wringing also and twitting the parts and members of the child, in such sort, that shee could not bring out one good word, & the better word, the greater was her troble to vtter it.

After this done, it was thought good by some, that a little sticke should be put into her mouth to keepe her teeth open, whensoeuer she was assailed againe, which was tried: so that when she was turned about, (for it would not suffer her so much as to sit quietly with hir face homewards, she held the stick fast in hir mouth, which kept hir teeth open, but she hir selfe was as one in a dead sleepe, giuing small signes of any strength, or life, and so remained vntill she was turned about againe, which was not presently doone, at that time, because wee were willing to see the issue of it. After a little space shee strooe with her handes to plucke the sticke out of her mouth, mourning inwardly in her minde with an heauie countenaunce, as if it had beene much griefe and trouble vnto her, but shee held it so fast with her teeth, that it could not (as it may be thought) without great force haue bene pulled out, which appeared by the great dints of her teeth, made in the sticke when she was recouered.

This

This wée durſt not aduenture to doo the ſecond time, fearing other inconueniences, for ſhe ſaid, when ſhe was come to her ſelf, that her mouth was very colde, for that the ſtick (as we thought) kept it open. Nowe did we tell her of a quill, by which ſhe vſed to receiue her meate at home, for ſhee aſked whether ſhe did eat meate any where elſe but in that place onely: but it ſéemed very ſtrange vnto her to heare of a quill, and ſhee knewe of no ſuch thing, neither could we bring her to beléeue that ſhe coulde ſucke in a quill, for ſhe aſked many queſtions about it, howe & which way ſhe ſhould doo it.

Now in the middeſt of this great heape, and woorlde of wonders (as we ſay) appearing in this childe, one thing farther by the way is thought good to be remembred, which is a point wherein many men that haue ſéene it, hardly beléeue their owne eyes. It is a great queſtion amongſt vs, and is not yet fully determined, whether the Childe in the preſent time of her agonie, dooth ſenſibly feele and partake, eyther in anguiſh of minde, or griefe of body, thoſe pangs and torments which to outwarde iudgement ſhee doth appeare to doo: it is thought ſhee doth not, and ſome reaſons ſhall be ſhewed that may draw vs to beléeue it.

Firſt, the teſtimony of the Childe her ſelfe (when ſhe is recouered) might be ſufficient to perſwade the matter, if there were nothing els, for why ſhould not ſhe rather by ſhewing her griefe cauſe vs to mone and pittie her (as all dooth that ſée her) if ſhee felt any cauſe why? The ſmyling and cheerefull countenance which ſhee hath alwayes vſed, to thoſe that aſke her howe ſhe dooth preſently vppon her fit ended, may ſomething alſo ſtrengthen this point. The earneſt deſire ſhe hath alwayes had in time of her greateſt extremities, to finiſh her prayers, or any ſuch good exerciſe, although her torments (as they appeared to bee) were the more encreaſed thereby, as vſually they were. Her exceeding harty and immodeſt laughter in ſome of her fits, and ſuch in déede as the Childes modeſtie woulde haue blushed at, and coulde not haue permitted, if ſhe had béene well. To theſe may be added, that ſhe not feéling of her blow and hurt, nor knowing any thing of it, vntill ſhee was recouered, which ſhe receiued in her fore-heade by the latch of a doore, as you may read before, with many ſuch like arguments which might be alleaged. And

not to leaue out that which is of moſt force of all: her open contempt at all times, & in all places, both in ſpeech & geſture, immediatly before her fit take her: her boldneſſe & good courage at all times to aduenture vpon it, though ſhe knew aſſuredly it would aſſault her: as namely, in the beginning of her viſitation, at the naming only of God, or Ieſus, or any good word, which if you had ſeene, you could not haue ſufficiently admired: alſo, at the giuing of thankes after or before meat receiued, at the entring vpon any good exerciſe, as reading or praying, ſhe neuer once vſeth to giue any ſigne of feare or diſcouragement, in any reſpect. And at the naming of the deuill, Mother Samuell, or any ſuch black word, that keepeth the collour, as Sathan, or Cicely, (which is another womans name, that is ſuſpected to be confederate in this wicked practiſe) ſhe neuer feared nor would ſticke at them, but alwayes ſhewed her ſelfe ready (though ſhe very well knew that ſhe ſhould haue her fit for it) to caſt her ſelfe vpon the preſent danger. And now heere in this place which is the open fields, ſhe is willing and forward at euery motion, to turne her ſelfe about, and to ſet her face homewards againe. And ſurely it may bee thought, there are very few (though hired with great gifts) if they had but once ſeene the childe in that pittifull plight and wofull caſe, wherein ſhe hath beene a hundred times, that would voluntarily caſt themſelues into ſo great an extremitie and hazard of life, yea, though they had receiued ſufficient ſecuritie and aſſured warrantie both of life and health afterwards, and withall for the preſent time alſo to be without naturall ſence & feeling of griefe, and veration of body or minde, ſo full of dread and terror was this fearefull ſpectacle, to the ſtanders by many times; And yet hath this little childe (ſuch is the preheminence of Gods Spirit ouer all ſpirites of wickednelſe) ſeene many of her ſiſters and ſome others, diuers times in the like caſe, or worſe (if it might be) handled and tormented.

Yet it cannot bee denyed, but ſhee hath beene many times very ſad in countenaunce, and ſhedde ſome fewe teares a little before her fit hath come vppon her: yet without any complayning at all, and of late times alſo: ſo that it may bee rather imputed (as it hath beene thought) to ſome other cauſes, as in part to the conceit and imagination of her cruell dealing, when ſhee

is

is in her fits, as it hath bene reported in her hearing. Alſo, for that ſhee is depriued (for the tyme) of the company and fellowſhippe of her cozens, (other children in the houſe, whom ſhee deerely loueth) to that great ſorrowe and anguiſh of minde, which the ſight of her lamentable caſe enforceth vpon others: or if there bee ſome other ſecret cauſe vnknowne vnto vs, for the Childe her ſelfe neuer complayneth. And beeing demaunded the cauſe of her teares, ſhee wyll aunſwere, ſometimes that her head aketh, or that ſhe hath ſome payn in one part of her body or other: But it would be too large a thing to recite one of an hundreth almoſt, of thoſe memorable accidents which haue befallen to this childe, ſince the time that it firſt pleaſed God to perimt her to be viſited in this order.

To omit therefore what might be further ſaid, ſhe was carried out of the fieldes back again into the groue, being more like the Image & ſhaddowe of a childe, then ſo in deede continuing in the ſame eſtate and order at home as abroade, not eating any thing but ſuch melting meats as woulde paſſe through a quill, onely ſomtimes ſhe would take ſome buttered meats, very ſmall minced, & rub it againſt the outſide of her teeth, & ſo ſuck in the iuyce and moyſture of it. From this day, which was the 3. of September, vntill Tueſday, which was the 8. of the ſame moneth, was ſhe caryed abroad into the field euery day to eat her meat, where ſhe fayled not to awake at the very ſelfe ſame place, & not before: And to perſwade you that ſhe would come to her ſelfe in no other place but in that onely, ſhe hath bēn caryed a more direct way to Warbois, two or three miles vpon the way, but to ſmall purpoſe, for ſhe continued in the ſame eſtate. Vpon this tueſday was ſhee carried from Tichemarſh groue, to Warbois to her fathers houſe, where by the way in the fields, at a hedge corner, which was the ordinary place, ſhe made the common ſignes, & preſently awaked continuing all the way in very healthfull ſort and merry, onely her greateſt care and greiſe was, that ſhee was departed from Tichemarſhe groue.

Now that you haue heard the particuler manner of the fits of this childe, Miſtreſſe Elizabeth, you may imagine & aime at the manner of handling of the reſt of her ſiſters, during this time, remayning in other places, who were no leſſe ſtrangly dealt with-

al, than she was, of whom if it should particularly be obserued, as is done in her, as strange wonders (if any thing hetherto seeme strang) befell euery one of them seuerally, as are these, which you haue already heard. And by some of them were shewed matters of farre greater admiration: but this may suffice, least in entring into the rest, no end could be found, so infinite is the matter.

It pleased the prouidence of God, that not long after Maister Gilbert Pickering had carryed away this child to his house, about a moneth or such a thing, the Lady Cromwel, wife of Sir Henry Cromwell Knight, (who then lay in Ramsey a towne two myles distant from Warboyse) came to Maister Throckmortons house, together with her daughter in law, Mistresse Cromwell, to visite these children & to comfort their parents, with whō she was well acquainted: she had not long staid in the house, but the children which were there, fell all into their fits, & were so grieuously tormented for the time, ỹ it pitied that good Ladies hart to see them, in so much, that she could not abstayn from teares, wherupon she caused the olde woman, mother Samuell to be sent for, who durst not deny to come, because her husband was tennant to sir Henry Cromwell, who after she was come, ỹ children grew to be worse than they were before, which caused the greater sorrowe. Then the Lady Cromwell tooke mother Samuell aside, and charged her deeply with this witchcraft, vsing also some hard speeches to her, but she stifly denyed them all, saying, that maister Trockmorton and his wife did her great wrong, so to blame her without cause. The Lady aunswered her, that neither Maister Throckmorton nor his wife accused her, but the children themselues in they⁹ fits did it, or rather the spirite by them.

One of them, Mistresse Ione by name, being then in her fitte, hearing the old woman thus clearing her selfe (for she heard not the Lady nor any other) said, that it was she that caused all this, and something there is, saith she, that doth now tell me so: asking if no body heard it but she, affyrming that it squealed very loude in her eares, & meruailed that no body could heare it, wishing the old woman to listen to it. But mother Samuel still continued her denyal. Then the Lady Cromwell would haue taken her vp into a chamber, to haue examined her more narrowly, (Maister Doctor Hall, a Doctor of diuinity being present) but she by no means

would

would goe with thē, but rather fayned many excuses to go home. In the end, when the Lady perceiued, that by no good speeches, neither she, nor any other could preuaile with her, & that fain she would haue bin gone, she suddainly pulled of her kercher, & taking a payre of sheeres, clipped of a locke of her haire, & gaue it priuily to mistresse Throckmorton, Mother of ỳ children, together with her Hairlace, willing her to burne them. Mother Samuel perceiuing her self thus dealt withall, spake to the Lady thus. Madame why doo vse me thus? I neuer did you any harme as yet. These words were afterwards remembred, & were not at that present time taken hold of by any. Towards night the Lady departing, left the children much what as she found them.

The same night, after the Lady Cromwell departed frō Warboyse, she suffered many things in her dreame concerning mother Samuell, & was very strangly tormented in her sleep, by a cat (as she imagined) which mother Samuel had sent vnto her, which cat offered to pulcke of all the skin and flesh from her armes & body, but such was the strugling and striuing of the Lady that night in her bed, & mournfull noise, which shee made speaking to the cat, and to mother Samuel that she wakened her bedfellow, who was Mistresse Cromwell, before named, wife to the worshipfull Maister Oliuer Cromwel, sonne & heyre to syr Henry Cromwell, who that night was frō home. Mistresse Cromwell being awakened, and perceiuing ỳ Lady thus disquieted, awakened her also, who greatly thanked her for it, declaring how she had bin troubled in her dreame, with mother Samuell and her cat, with many other circumstances, which she did very well remember, neither could she take any quiet rest or sleep all that night after, for feare therof. Not long after the Lady fell very strangly sick, & so continued vnto hey dying day, which was some yere & quarter after her being at Warboyse. The manner of her fits, was much like to the childrens, saue onely that she had alwayes her perfect senses: for somtime her paine would be in one arme, sometime in the other: now in the one leg, by & by in the other, many times in her head: yea, somtimes it would take her but in one seuerall finger or toe, and alwayes shake the grieued part, as if it had bēne the palsey. And that saying of mother Samuel (which she vsed to her at Warboise, which was, Madam, I neuer hurt you as yet) would neuer

out of her mind. And thus leauing this good Lady in heauen with God, we will returne to these children.

About Christmas after, Anno 1590 (for there was nothing noted all ỳ time, although there befel 100. wonders) maister Henry Pickering, vncle to these children, being then a Scholler of Cambridge, went to Maister Throckmortons house, & continued ther some 3. or 4. daies, was desirous to speak with mother Samuel, & taking a conuenient time, he requested 2. other schollers of his acquaintance (then being in the town) to go with him, to whō they granted, & presently went without the knowledg of any in Ma: ster Throckmortons house. As they were going, she came out of her own house, & crossed ỳ stræt before them: when they saw her, they determined rather to folow her whither she went, than stay her return, because her husband was a froward man, & wold not suffer her to talke with any, if he might know it. She went to a neighbours house for some Barme, & caried a little wodden tankard in her hand, & a little Barley in her lap, to exchange for the Barme: when she came to the house, whither she purposed to go, the schollers followed her immediatly, & heard her tel her errand to the wife of ỳ house, who had not that for which she came. Being ready to depart, the Schollers desired to speake with her, but she semed loth to stay, yet they entring into questions with her, stayd her a little. But she was very loud in her answeres, & impatient, not suffering any to speak, but her selfe; one of them desired her to kéep the womans vertue, & be more silent: she answered, that she was born in a mill, begot in a kill, she must haue her will, she could speak no softlier. The greatest part of her speech, was rayling words against Ma. Throckmorton & his children, saying, that he did misuse her, in suffering his children so to play the wantons in accusing of her, & bringing her name into question, often repeating, that the childrens fits was nothing but wantonnesse in them, & if they were her children, she woulde not suffer thē so to escape without punishment, one after the other. The schollers enquired about her seruice of God, and profession of her faith. But al ỳ they could get of her, was, that her God would deliuer her, her God would defend her, and reuenge her of her enemie, alway vsing the phrase of my God wil do this & that for me: which being noted by one of them, he asked her if she had a God

alone,

alone, or if she did not serue the same God that others did? She aunswered, yes that she did: yet much adoe they had to bring her from the phrase of my God, to say the God of heauen & earth. In the end she would needs be gone, saying, that her husband would beat her for her long tarrying. Then the vncle of those children, being somewhat more moued than the rest, at the parting saide, that if she were the woman that had wrought this wickednesse vpon these children, the vengeance of God would surely wait vpon her vnto death, & howsoeuer she might deceiue her selfe & the worlde for a time, yet there was no way to preuent the iudgements of God, but by her confession & repentance: which if she did not in time, he hoped one day to see her burned at a stake, and he himselfe would bring fire & wood, & the children should blowe the coales. Her answere to him was this, (for they were then in the stréet hard by a pond) I had rather (sayd she) see you dowsed ouer head and eares in this pond, and so they parted.

Now to come to the point, the eldest of Maister Throckmortons daughters was then in her fit, sitting at home in a Parlor, her father and Grandmother, with some other of her sisters in their fits being present with her. On the suddaine (said she) nowe is my vncle (naming him) and the two other (whom she also named) going to mother Samuell, wee shall heare some newes by and by. Presently she saide, looke where mother Samuell goeth trotting in the streetes before them, with a woodden tankard in her hand, and her Apron is tucked vp before her, I beléeue sayth she there is somewhat in it. She is gone into such a mans house, that kéepeth an Alehouse, the mans name she could not hit of, but described him by his read head. Hark, sayd she to her sisters, mother Samuell is very loude, and my vncle bids her speake softly, but she saith she cannot, repeating to her father and the rest, the same words, (viz. that she was borne in a mill, &c.) after the same manner that mother Samuell spake them to her vncle, and the other Schollers. To bee short, shee declared particularly euery worde that passed betweene mother Samuell and those Schollers at that time. And at the parting shee sayde, there Mother Samuell my Uncle dyd touch you I thynke, repeating againe the very same wordes that her Uncle had doone, wishing that that day were once come, for I my selfe (saide she) would

blow

blow the coales. But he had bene as good he had said nothing to her(said she)for she wished him ouer head & eares in the pond for it. Maister Throckmorton standing by & hearing all this, after that the child had said,that now mother Samuel and the schollers were parted,enquired for his brother,the childs vncle, asking if any one knew whither he was gone. Answer was made,that he came not home frō the Church since euening Prayer,(for it was on a Saterday)but where he was no body knew.It may be(said Maister Throckmorton)that he is with mother Samuel,& went immediatly out of his own house,to see if he could perceiue wher they were. As he went he met them in the Church yard cōming from mother Samuels. Where haue you bin said he? They tolde him. I could haue told you so much my selfe,saide he: & repeated to them the whole matter, as his daughter before had shewed. When they were come into ỳ Parlor where she was,there was also another of her sisters in her fit sitting by. And this her other sister could heare her said vncle speake vnto her,& no body els,and so by her mouth, (for they could for the most part heare one another in their fits) he enquired of her sister all those matters ouer againe,which she did in his owne hearing repeat. But sayd she, the winde was so great that I had much adoe to heare them, whereas indede there was then no wind stirring. After this the spirit(or the thing as the children called it)would many times appeare vnto them in their fits in some kinde of shape or other,but most commonly in the likenes of a dun chicken,& would talke familiarly with them,saying that they came from mother Samuel, (whom they called their dame) and were sent by her to the children to torment and vexe them in that sort. It would declare to the children many things concerning mother Samuell,insomuch, that she coulde do nothing almost at home for a great time, but the spirit woulde disclose, if it were required by the children in their fits: viz. as to know what she was then in doing at home, or in what place of her house, or els where she was, the spirit would tell: which(by a Messenger presently sent of purpose) was proued true.

Now did the spirits manifestly begin to accuse mother Samuel to the children in their fits,saying: it was she that had bewitched them,and all those seruants which were bewitched in the house,

and

and told them, that whensoeuer they were in their fits, and were either caried to Mother Samuels house, or she caused to come to them, they should be presently wel. This many times was proued true, & neuer failed once: so that if the children at any time being in their fits, had bene caried to mother Samuels house, (for it was a very hard thing to get mother Samuel to Ma. Throckmortons house) although they were in such a case, as y a strong man could scarcely hold them (they would so struggle, starte, and sprawle in his armes) yet if they came but once to the threshold of Mo. Samuels doore, they would wipe their eyes, and say, I am wel, why do you carry me, set me down, as though some shame had bene offered them, in that they were carried in the streetes, not knowing any thing in what case they had been. While they cõtinued in the house, they were very wel, but determining once to come away, and offering to come out of the doore, they fel presently down on the grounde, & were brought from thence in the same case that they were caried thither: contrariwise, whensoeuer Mo. Samuel came to Ma. Throckmortons house, in what kind of extremity soeuer these children were in, (as it was most wonderful strange to see them many times) so sone as euer shee had set foote into the Parler or Hal where they were, they wold all presently start vp vpon their feet, and be as wel as any in the house, and so continue while she was present. But when she offered to depart, they would all sinck downe as a stone vpon the ground: if she turned but her face againe & came towards them, they would be wel as before, which was tryed xx. times in one houre. And when she departed frõ the house, she left them in the same estate wherin she found them, so long as their fit continued vpon them. After this, Ma. Throckmorton thought good to disperse his children, & sent them abroad, some to one friends house, some to another for a time, to see how they shold be dealt withal, yet alwaies keeping some one of them at home with him.

If it shold be declared how these were al seuerally handled for the time they were abroad, it would aske a long discourse, & longer indeed thẽ is thought meet at this time, although very strange things, and such as may seeme worthy the noting befel euery one of them, as this for one: They could tell beeing in their fits, in what case or estate their other sisters were at that instant, being

seperated some of them 8. 10. or 12. miles a sunder, & haue said, now is my sister, naming her & the place where shee was in her fit very sore handled, as she herselfe also was at that instant. It was proued to be most true by the iust computation of times, with many such like things.

But this may suffice concerning them being abroad, that they were neuer altogether clere and free from their fits, although it be true that some of them, whither at home or abroade, had not their fits aboue once in a month, somtimes once in halfe a yeere, and one of them was clere a whole yeere together. And this also is verified & true in some other of these 5. sisters, that they were neuer clere nor free from some kind of fit or other, three weekes together: I thinke scarsely three daies since the first day it tooke them, except now since these last Assises in Lent, whereat these Witches were executed.

To passe ouer all that which might be spoken of them for a yeere and almost an halfe, we will come nearer vnto these latter times, wherin the spirits, whither moued by their own malice, (as it passeth the reach of man to sounde the depth of the deuils malice to mankind) or moued by the malice of the senders, and setters on, or both: it is not knowne, or whether for the conclusion and consummation of their parents patience in this poynt: It pleased the wisedom of God, who in his prouidence had determined their end, to graunt them, therfore more liberty for the time, to exercise their malice against these children, we leaue it to God, but truth it is, that they were more strangely vexed, & more grieuously tormented in their body now of late, & take them generally altogether, then at any time almost from the beginning.

And to beginne this time at Michelmasse last past, or thereabouts, foure of these children were altogether at Warboyse, in they^r Fathers house, and the fift, which was the eldest of them, was at her Vnckles house, Gilbert Pikering, Esquire, dwelling at Tichemarshe groue.

About this time, which was Michelmas 1592. one of these foure children, the youngest saue one, neere vpon the age of fourteene yeeres, was in a very strange kind of fit, the maner whereof was as followeth: Euery day for the space of three weekes or more, she had a senceleste fitte, some one time of the day or other,

and

and sometimes many fits in one day. In which fit she could neyther heare, see, nor speak to any body, besides, her inward griefs, that she would heaue and start, and swell vppe her body, which was very troublesome to her for the time. When she was out of these fits, she would goe vp & down the house very wel, she wold eate & drink, and somtimes be very pleasant in outward gesture with her sisters, she would do any thing, which by any signe she did vnderstand shold be done, she wold make a reuerence as shee passed by, vnto those where she saw it was due: in so much that any man ignorant of her estate, coulde perceiue nothing to be amisse in her, yet wold she neuer speake to any in particuler, neyther could she heare any ỹ spake to her during that time: except somtimes she wold prattle a little to an infant, which was newlie borne in the house, wherein she toke great delight.

It pleased God, about the beginning of these kind of fits in her, an Aunte of hers being then in ỹ house, was deliuered of a child, vpon which occasion, many of her vncles & aunts and other kindred and friends, resorted to the house, and some of them staied a week or ten daies togither, all which time the child was in these kinde of fits: and as it happened, Mo. Samuel amongst the rest came to the house, and was brought vp into the gentlewomans chamber, where commonly the greatest company was: so sone as she came in, (this childe in question) beeing there, espied her, and presently spake to her, bidding her welcome, & saying that she was a great stranger there, she fetched her vp both meat and drink, and wold do any thing readily that she willed her to do. In the end, she asked Mo. Samuel, whose that little child was which she herselfe had in her armes? the old woman told her, and likewise the name of it, which thing she also demaunded: the chylde merualled, saying, Is my aunt then brought to bed? I am very glad of it: why then (saith she) such and such of mine vncles and aunts promised to be heere, who were then indad in the house, and some of them in that company. Then Mo. Samuel told her, that such & such whom she asked for, were in presence. The child said, that she saw no body but her and that little child, which she had in her armes, although she loked full in theyr faces. Many such like strange things thē fell out, which is to long to speak of. When the old woman departed, the child losse the vse of all her

sences, and continued in the same case, wherin she was when the olde woman came into the house.

When she had continued thus 3. weekes or more, shee came one day out of her Aunts chamber into the hall, and shee had not long staied there, but she fel into a most troublesome fitte for the time, but it continued not long, presently she spake and saide: I am glad, and very glad, repeating it often, on the suddaine shee wiped her eyes, and came out of her fit. Her mother being in the Hall, she asked her blessing, and enquired of many things, and amongst others, asked how her Aunt did, from whom a little before she came, and knew of nothing that was done, neither that any company had been there for the space of 3. weekes before.

It followeth to speake of the rest of her sisters together with herselfe, [illegible] all of them, as the yeere grew towardes an ende, so their griefes and extremity of troubles increased: insomuch, that euery day brought with it increase of payne, and strangenes in their manner of fits.

Towards Hollantide, the spirits grew very familiar with the children, and commonly towards the ende of their fits, when the greatest trouble was ouer, would talke with them halfe an houre together, & somtimes longer: The greatest matter of their talk, was about their maner of fits which they should haue, & concerning Mo. Samuel, whose pleasure it was that they shold be so vsed, but the spirits said many times, that they woulde bring her to shame for it in the end. If in this time (beeing in their fittes) they had enquired of their spirite, when they should come out of that fitte, wherin then they were, and when they shold haue another, it would haue told them, and not missed any whit at all.

If they had asked how many fittes they should haue the next day following, and the third day, or any day that weeke, and how many fits they should haue in one day, and what maner of fittes they should be, whither more grieuous or lesse, howe long euery fitte shoulde continue, and in what parte of the day they should beginne, and when they should ende, it hath tolde them, and not failed in any one poynt, for it hath beene presently sette downe in writing, as the children haue spoken it, (for it was not possible to remember the times for them all) and prooued wholly true.

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The times and signes, which the spirits did appoint vnto the, for the beginning or ending of their fits, were vsually these. In the morning so soone as they did offer to arise out of their beds, so soone as they were vp or ready: so soone as they asked their Father blessing, or their Mother, or their Grandmother: so soone as they toke a booke in hand to pray, or when they had ended their prayers: so soone as they went to breakefast, so soone as Dinner was sette vppon the boorde: or so soone as they dyd offer to say grace eyther before or after dinner: so soone as they themselues were set downe to dinner, or at the first bit of meate they put in their mouthes: or so soone as dinner was ended, or they had put vp their knyfe after dinner: the same circumstances at Supper also obserued. Or if it had beene vppon the Sabboth day, or any day wherein the belles ought to be runge: so soone as the first, second, or third peale ringeth, or haue done ringing, with many such like signes, which woulde bee too long to speake of: appoynted by the spyrite, for the children to fall in or out of their fittes, which they duely obserued, & failed not a mynute, as may be thought.

After they had continued in this case about a month together or such a thing, whether the spirits were wearie, (as they oftentimes sayd vnto the children in their fittes, that they now waxed weary of their Dame Mo. Samuell) or whether y through the power of Gods goodnesse, and speciall protection of the children, the spirits perceiued, that their owne malice, & the malice of their Dame to the children was restrained, and kept vnder in such sort, that they could not kill the children as they desired: for wee may not thinke, that it agreeth with the nature of the euil spyrite to sport and play with man, as these spirites oftentimes did with these little children: they saide to them, that nowe ere long, they wold bring their Dame either to her confession or confusion. And this was the greatest stay of comfort & prop of patience which the parents of these children & friendes alwaies had: namely, that when these children were in their greatest torment and miseries as might be deuised, in such sort as that it made the hart of the beholders many times to melt in their bodies, being without all hope euer in this world to see them aliue againe, yet whensoeuer it pleased God to deliuer them out of their fits, they

would wipe their eyes and bee presently well, as if it had neuer bæn they, not knowing any thing that had befallen them, so that now it should seeme that God himselfe wold take the matter into his owne hands, & hauing in his counsell determined an ende thereof, so he would also appoint the meanes to bring it to passe, which was euen by the spirits themselues, the instruments of this wickednes. For now they began to accuse Mo. Samuel, openly to her face, & say ỹ they shal not be wel in any place, except they continue in her house, or shee be brought to continue wyth them; and besides that, they shal haue more troublesome fittes then euer they had, except one of those two be brought to passe.

Mo. Throckmorton still thinking that the spyrits might lye, was contented to try the vttermost for three weekes together, all which time his children had very many most grieuous and troublesome fits: insomuch that when night came, there was neuer a one of them able to goe to their beds alone, their legges were so ful of paine and sores, besides many other griefes they had in their body (being out of their fits) which was not vsuall with them: and one of them also for all that time of 3. weekes, neuer had vse of her legs, except it were an howre or two in one day, while Mother Samuell was in the house, and then she was able to goe, and was very well, as the rest also were: otherwise her legs were thrust vppe to her body as if they had bæne tyed with stringes, and where you sette her downe, there you should finde her, except she crept away.

Maister Throckmorton, perceiuing that by no meanes hee could gette leaue of old Iohn Samuell, for the old woman to come to his house, although he offered very largely for it, which was, to allow him if it came to ten pounds in the yeere for the boorde and wages, of the best seruaunt in Huntington-shyre to dw hys business (if he would) in her stead, besides his promise & bonde, if he would require it, for the well vsing of his wife while shee was with him, he could finde no other remedy for the health of hys children, but to carry them thither: which hee did, who so soone as they came into the house, were all presently wel, which he perceiuing, sayd, that his children should dwell there, & out of the house they should not goe, he would prouide for their necessities. The man seeing this, that there was no striuing with

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the company, quenched out the fire, and it was a cold season, saying that he would starue them, besides very many euill words, which came from him and his daughter at that time. All that day they continued there very wel, and did both eate and drinke, and read in their booke, and were very merry. At night when the man Iohn Samuel perceiued that they should lodge there, hee thought that they would be very troublesome to him, and therefore gaue his faithfull promise, that his wife should come to Ma. Throckmortons house the next morning, & continue with hym: whereupon Ma. Throckmorton toke home his children, & they were in their fits so sone as they came out of his doores, and so continued all that night. The next morning Ma. Throckmorton went for the old woman, but she was gone no body knewe whither, so he sent againe for his children, who so sone as they came into the house, were wel. Towards night, came in the old woman, who said that she had been 2. or 3. miles out of ẏ town, and her husband knew of her going, because she should not come to Ma. Throckmortons, which when he vnderstood that she had spoken, (for she spake it priuately, desiring them to whom shee spake it, not to tell her husband) he vtterly forswore the matter, and presently fell vpon his wife, and beate her very sore with a cudgell many being present, before she could be rescued by them. In the end, when the man perceiued Ma. Throckmorton stil to continue in the same mind aforesaid, he was contented to let his wife go home with thē that night, who went all to Ma. Throckmortons house very wel together, & so continued the space of nine or ten daies following, without any maner of sorenes, lamenes, or any maner grudging of fits, and in better case, then they had been (as it was wel knowne) all of them together, for the space of three whole yeares before. This made the parents right glad, and to vse the woman as a welcome guest. At the tenne dayes end, the old Woman intreated Mistres Throckmorton, for her husband was gone forth that morning, that she might goe home, making her excuse to fetch something that she wanted. Mistres Throckmorton was very loth to grant it, promising that she her selfe wold rather fetch what she would haue, then that she shold goe out of her house: yet the olde woman, saying that no bodie could come by that thing that she wold haue, but herselfe (which

happily

happily was true) and promising her present returne, shee yeelded to her request.

Some after shee was gone, some of the children fell into their fits againe as before times, & the spirite then talking with them, said. That now Mo. Samuel was feeding of her spirites, & making a new league and composition with them, which was, that although now she came againe to the house, they shalbe no whit the better, but rather the worse for her being there, because shee would not remaine any longer there: which thing seemed to bee true that the child spake, for so soone as she came againe (which was not before she was sent for 4. or 5. houres after she went) the children which were in their fits at her comming, so continued, and they that were not, after her comming fell into their fits, all of them crying out, that nowe Mo. Samuel had made a newe composition with her spirits, and now they should be no whitte better for her presence, but rather the worse.

Maister Throckmorton when he came home, and perceiuing the case otherwise with his children then he left it, and the cause why, could not be but hartily sorry: yet referred all to the good pleasure of GOD, and would not suffer the olde woman to depart his house, for this cause chiefely, because his children being in their fits, could neither heare, see, nor speake to any body, but to her, & some of the children could take nothing, but that which she eyther gaue them, or touched with her hands.

Mother Samuel remaining thus with the children, shee coulde not be in any place of the house alone, neither doing any thing about the house, but the children in their fits wold reueale it, specially when she was feeding of her spyrits, for then the chyldren would say: Now is Mother Samuell in such a place of the house feeding of her spyrits: when they went and looked, there they should finde her, but whether doing any such thing or not, God and her conscience are the best witnesses.

Many times also as she sate talking with these children, being in their fits by the fire side, they would say vnto her: Looke you heere Mo. Samuel, do not you see this thing that sitteth heere by vs? she would answere no, not she: why they wold say againe, I meruaile that you do not see it, looke how it leapeth, skyppeth, and playeth vppe and downe: poynting at it with their fingers

heere

here & there as it leaped. Somtimes also they would say, Harke Mo. Samuel, dw you not heare it? harke how loude it is, I merualle you dw not heare it, nay you cannot but heare it. She wold denie it, and bid them aske their father, or some other whom she saw to stand by, whether they heard it or not. The childzen wold aunswer, that they saw no body although they stood hard by thē. Then would they tell Mo. Samuel, that it telleth them, that shee both heareth it, seeth it, and sent it. The father of these childzen, Ma. Throckmorton, to make a kind of experience of this matter, one night willed Mo. Samuell (as hee might haue dwne to any other then beeing present) to name howe many fittes those thzee childzen that then were in their fits, shoulde haue the next day following, and what kind of fits they shold haue, when they should begin, and how long they should continue. Mo. Samuel, was very loth to be brought vnto it: yet in the end, theyr father saying that she should doe it. Shee saide, one of them shall haue thzee fittes, naming the child, such & such for the manner, namely easie fittes, appointing the time for their beginnings and endings: the other shall haue two in like sort, the time appointed by her: and the third shall haue none, but be well all the day. All which fits, proued very iustly in euery one of them the next day, as she had spoken.

At an other time not long after, Mo. Samuel sitting by these chyldzen beeing in their fittes as before, Ma. Throckmorton theyr father, and some other also being with him, demaunded of Mo. Samuell, saying, that he had heard, that those that were acquainted with these spirits (as the childzen say that shee is) and had retained them in their seruice, to dw for them as they commaunded, that they did feede them, and reward them with some thing from them, but most vsually with their bloode, and that euery day: now therfore (said he) make open confession, & shame the deuil in telling the truth, whether you dw any such thing or not.

Shee most vehemently denied it, with many bitter words and curses vpon her selfe, desiring the Lord, to shew some present token from heauen vpon her, that all the world might knowe, that she was such a kind of woman, as they suspected her for, if she vsed any such thing, or rewarded them any such way, or had any

ſpirits, or knew what they were.

Preſently after, Maiſter Throckmorton, and Maiſter Henry Pickering, vncle to the ſaid childrē, who was then with him, hearing her vſe ſuch proteſtations, being half terrified in their harts, (becauſe they alway vehemently ſuſpected her giltineſſe) that ſhe ſhoulde thus violently with her owne handes (as it were) pull downe the iudgments of God vppon her head, went out of the doores, and before they were gone ten paces from the houſe, another young Gentleman, Maiſter Iohn Lawrence (cozen to the ſayd children) that ſtayed behinde in the Parlor, came to Maiſter Throckmorton, and Ma: Henry Pickering, & ſaide that mother Samuels chin did bleede: whereupon they returned into the Parlor agayn where ſhe was, and ſawe the napkin wherewith ſhee had wiped away the blood from her chin, to be bloody to the quantitie of eight or ten drops. Then Ma. Throckmorton, with the reſt looked vppon her chinne, and there was no more to be ſeene than vpon the back of a cleane hande, onely there appeared ſome fewe little red ſpots, as if they had beene flea-bytings. Then Maiſter Throckmorton demaunded of her, whether her chin vſed to bleede ſo or not: She ſayd, that it did very often. He aſked her, who coulde witneſſe it but her ſelfe? She ſayd no bodie, for it did alwayes bleed when ſhe was alone, and ſhe neuer tolde any body of it.

This her bleeding at the chinne, ſhe did confeſſe to the ſayde Maiſter Henry Pickering, after ſhee was condemned, that the ſpirites were then ſucking at her chinne, when ſhee made that proteſtation to Maiſter Throckmorton and him, and that when ſhe wyped them of with her hand, her chinne bled, which ſometimes it had done before, after their ſucking, but not often, and neuer ſo much as then, nay, ſcarcely the quantitie of one drop at any time before.

And thys by the way, as a generall note throughout the Booke, where there is one of theſe ſtraunge thinges ſet downe, (if they bee ſo accounted as ſtraunge) there are ten omitted, which may as well bee put in, and (in the iudgement of them that heare of them) are no leſſe ſtraunge than theſe: And for that which this Booke dooth contayne, it is ſet downe vppon the ſuddayne, and as it commeth to preſent memorie, at the requeſt

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of diuers Right Worſhipfull, and eſpecially for the motion ſake of the Right Worſhipfull, Maiſter Juſtice Fenner, one of the Patrons heereof. And for the trueth of the moſt of theſe thinges heerein contayned, they were gyuen in euidence, and ready to bee giuen againſt the partyes accuſed, if eyther neede ſhould haue required or time ſerued, vppon the oathe of diuers Gentlemen on the Aſſiſſes day at Huntingron, before the ſayde parties: And for the reſt which were not then alleadged, if any ſhall make doubt thereof, there are diuers Gentlemen, of honeſt report, ready to confyrme the ſame vppon theyr oathes, if neede ſhoulde ſo require, that were preſent, ſome at one tyme, and ſome at another, at all theſe ſeuerall Tragedies, (as they may be tearmed.)

At another time, ſoone after, the ſpirites tolde the children (then being in theyr fits, the olde woman alſo ſtanding by them) that if theyr Father Maiſter Throckmorton, woulde then preſently goe to Iohn Samuells houſe, his daughter Agnes Samuell, who then dwelt at home with her father, and is not yet brought into queſtion about any of theſe matters, woulde hide her ſelfe, and not be ſeene of him. Maiſter Throckmorton hearing them, ſaid, that he would goe preſently and make tryall thereof. When he came to the houſe, Agnes Samuell, whether perceiuing Ma: Throckmorton, or any of his company, or what ſo euer els it was, it is not knowne, but ſhe went vp into the Chamber (there being but one in the houſe) the ſtayres wherof ſtode in the ſame Parlor belowe where her father was, and the doore thereof was a trappe doore: where-vpon ſhee ſet ſackes of corne, and tubbes with ſome ſuch like things, to keepe it downe. Maiſter Throckmorton hearing a noyſe in the houſe thought there was ſome ſuch matter in hand, & continued ſtill knocking at the doore. Preſently Iohn Samuell aſked who was there, and what he would, with ſome ſuch lyke queſtions, and in the ende, knowing what he was, ſayde hee ſhoulde not come in; Then Maiſter Throckmorton went on the other ſide of the houſe, and finding the back dooze open, went in, and when hee came into the Parlor where the man was in hys bedde, beeing about eight of the clocke or ſomething before, he aſked for Agnes Samuell, his daughter, and where ſhee was, Iohn Samuell had not hys oathe to ſeeke,

but presently swore as God iudge his soule (which was hys common oath, and vsed also diuers times before the Benche at his arraignement, yea, and vntil the very time of his execution) that he knew not where she was.

Ma. Throckmorton asked when he saw her? He answered, that since the euening she was in the house, but where now she is, he could not tell. He asked if she was not in the chamber ouer them, he swore he could not tel, which thing he could not (indeed) but know, for it was a very low chamber, and shee coulde not sturre her foote in it, but he must needes heare her: besides, her going vp into it, for the stayres stood hard at his beds feete, and the noyse also shee made in the hearing of Ma. Throckmorton and the rest comming into the house. Ma. Throckmorton verely suspecting that she was there, called to her three or 4. times, and willed her to answer if shee was there, for it was all that he desired, to know where she was, but she would not answer: Then Ma. Throckmorton toke the candle, and said he woulde goe vp and see, but when he came to the toppe of the staires, the trap dooze was so fast, that he could not sturre it, which he perceiuing, said, that surely he wold breake open the dooze, or breake vp the plancher of the chamber, for he woulde goe into it before he went out of the house, and willed one of the company to fetch him a barre of yron or some such like thing, for hee would doe it indeede.

The Maide hearing Ma. Throckmorton thus resolute, answered that shee was there: then Ma. Throckmorton willed her to come downe: which she did, remouing those thinges that before shee had set vppon the dooze, so hee departed home to his house, challenging the man for his naughty lye, which yet hee stiflie stood in. But to let an hundred of these things passe with their fellowes, and to come nearer the olde womans confession, and the maner of it: you shall vnderstand, that mother Samuel grew now to be meruailous weary of Maister Throckmortons house, both because shee coulde do nothing in the house, but the chyldren in their fits would reueale it, and especially, because the children in their fits, likewise had told her twenty times, to her face, that she shold confesse this matter before the Tuesday after Twelfe day, and that the spirits had told them, that they would

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enforce her to confesse it in despight of her, and she had oft. n experience, that whatsoeuer the spirits foretold, proued most true.

Now this Tuesday which the children so often named, was not then thought vpon (of any that heard it) to be the Sessions day at Huntington, as it is generally in most places of England, no not within a weeke or more after the children had spoken of it: yet were they often whispering with themselues (alwaies in their fittes as you must vnderstande it) about that Tuesday, wishing oftentimes, that it were once come, for ỳ was some happy day (they would say) belike for them, for after that day the spirits had told them, they should neuer haue moe fittes: so that all their ioy in their fittes, was for that day, yet they would say to themselues, that the spirits doth tell them, that it may happily be before that Tuesday: but on ỳ Tuesday at the farthest she must confesse it, and they must be well, but if shee would confesse it before, they should be well presently whensoeuer shé did confesse it.

For thys cause the children in their fits continually woulde exhort her to confesse it, that they might be well, which yet shee alwaies would denie to do, saying: that shé wold not confesse that which shé neuer did know of, nor consented vnto: the children would aunswere, that they woulde not wishe her to accuse herselfe for any thing, and therefore willed her to loke to that in any respect, yet they said, that they enforced no more vpon her, then what the spirits had told them. Yet to speake the trueth of these chyldren and no more, if any thing heerein written of them be strange, thys for strangenesse goeth beyond all other, and for trueth equall to the rest: such were the heauenly & diuine speeches of these children in their fits, to this olde woman, some at one time, some at another, concerning her confession of thys fact, as that if a man had heard it, hé woulde not haue thought himselfe better edified at tenne Sermons.

The matter of their speech was thys, concerning chiefly the ioyes of heauen which shé should lose: and the torments of hel which shé shoulde endure, if shé béing guilty woulde not yet confesse, and the eschewing of the one and enioying of the other, if shé would confesse and be sorry for that shé had done: they rehearsed likewise vnto her, her naughty manner of lyuing, her

vsuall cursing and banning of all that displeased her, and especially of their parents, and of them: (which shee coulde not deny) her negligent comming to Church, and slacknesse in Gods seruice, all which she confessed to them, but she woulde now begin to amende she said. Her leude bringing vp of her Daughter, in suffering her to be her Dame, both in controwling of her, and beating of her, which before had bene proued to her face, & shee herselfe had also confessed. They remembred also vnto her, that which they had heard some speak of, whē they were out of their fittes: namely, that she had said, that their fits were but wantonnesse in them: they asked her now, whether she was still of that minde or not? She aunswered no: with many such like speeches, and in the ende, concluded with their harty prayer to God for her, saying that they woulde forgiue her from the bottome of their hart, if she wold confesse it that they might be wel, besides that, that they woulde intreate they? parents and they? friendes (so much as in them lay) clerely to forgiue and forget all that was past. Their maner of behauior in this their exhortation to her was, that as for the most part they beganne wyth teares, so they continued, and alwaies ended with teares: insomuch that there was not any ỹ heard them, could abstaine frō weeping, onely the old woman was little or nothing moued.

This kinde of behauior in the children, passed on vntill neerer Christmas, yet without any touch or sturring of the old woman, in the meane season euery day almost, this old woman had a fit of bleeding at the nose, and bled very much at a time (which is not vsuall in old age) so that now she wared fainte, and looked very pale, insomuch, that Maister Throckmorton and his wife, were very careful for her, fearing some harme should come vnto her in his house: and comforted her by all the meanes they could, not suffering her to want any thing that shee desired, if possibly they could come by it: so that she dyd confesse to all that came to her, that shee was meruailous well vsed of Maister Throckmorton, and thought herselfe greatly bounde to him, as truely she had no other cause.

For as for her businesse, shee dyd nothing, but her own worke, and for her dyet, she sat at his owne borde, or with his children, if they were in their fits, and coulde not sit downe, and for her lodging

lodging ſhee lay continually in his owne Chamber and for the moſt part with one of his children.

And to tell you one thing more of her before her confeſſion, one of theſe Children, Miſtreſſe Elizabeth Throckmorton, was one day not well at eaſe, and coulde not eate any meate: yet when night came and ſupper was ready, ſhe thought to make her ſelfe amendes: but when ſhe was ready to ſitte at the Table, ſhe fell preſently into her fitte, and yet that was not all the puniſhment ſhe had, but her mouth was locked vppe, that ſhee coulde neither eate, drinke, nor ſpeake, as it was an vſuall thing with them all, to haue theyr mouthes ſhut vppe, eſpecially at meale tymes, and other whyles ſhutte and open, halfe a dozen tymes in a dinner, ſo woulde the ſpirites ſporte with them: but ſhee went ſo to bedde, very ſorrowfull and weeping, what her griefe was, none can tell, becauſe ſhe was not able to vtter it: when the next day came, ſhee was ſicke and ill, as the day before, (yet out of her fitte) and eate very little or nothing at all, when night came ſhe ſayde ſhee felt her ſelfe well amended, and very hungry: not knowing for her part, but that ſhe had eaten her ſupper the night before.

Then was ſhee councelled by them that feared the worſt, to eate ſomething, but ſhe ſayde ſhe woulde not, purpoſing to eate her part at ſupper, when the time came, and meate was ſet vpon the boorde, ſhee fell into the ſame caſe as ſhee had beene in the night before, which Maiſter Throckmorton perceiuing, hee ſayde to the olde woman that ſtoode by her. I thinke (Mother Samuell) you are diſpoſed to pyne that wenche. She made hym aunſwere no, ſhee was rather ſorry to ſee it. Well ſayde hee, ſurely you ſhall neyther eate nor drinke, vntill ſhee canne doo both, and therefore (ſayde Maiſter Throckmorton) whileſt ſhee faſteth, you ſhall faſt, and when ſhe can eate, you ſhall eate, but not before, vſe the matter as you will. And thus they continued both faſting, vntill Supper was almoſt ended, and the companie ready to arriſe: the one faſting vppon neceſſitie, becauſe ſhe could not eate, and the other for Maiſter Throckmortons pleaſure, becauſe ſhe might not.

The olde woman perceiuing that Ma. Throckmorton was in good earneſt with her, & that the meat was caried out of ỳ Parlor:

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On the suddaine, vpon what motion GOD onely knoweth, the child fetched a great sigh, for she had beene weeping all Supper time, and spake, saying: If I had some meate now, I could eate it.

Mistres Throckmorton (the childes Mother) hearing her speake, as did also all the rest that were in the Parlor, commanded presently that meate should be giuen to them both, the companie not giuing notice to Mother Samuel of the mater: so they both fell to their meate very hartily, but especially the olde Woman, who as it should seeme, was then very hungry, (as shee had alwaies a good stomacke) and from that time forwardes, during the olde womans continuing in the house, neither that child, nor any of her sisters, had their mouthes shut vp, at anie time when they shoulde eate their meate, or if they were, they did not long continue so. Although it was a common custome with them before time, to haue gone supperlesse to bed vpon that very occasion, many a time.

After all these matters were passed ouer, and as it wared euery day nearer and nearer to the time appointed, Mo. Samuel euery day complained of a newe griefe to befall her, sometimes she would cry out of her backe, that it was so full of paine, that she was not able to sturre herselfe in her bedde all the day long, nor take any rest at night.

Sometimes she would in like sorte cry out of her head, otherwhiles of her stomacke: yet shee would eate her meate, saying that shee had a gnawing at her hart, and the nert day after, it would be in her knee, or lower, so that shee woulde goe halting vp and downe the house. And to speake the trueth of her, it should seeme that something there was that troubled her, whatsoeuer it was, for she would so grone, and mone herselfe in the nyght time, one while complayning of this parte of her bodie, another while of that, that indeede shee rested but little in the night tyme herselfe, and greatly disquieted those also that lay in the Chamber by her.

And one night amongst all the rest, shee cryed out verie pittifully of her bellie, insomuch, that shee disturbed and awakened both Ma. Throckmorton and his wife, that lay by her, saith Maister Throckmorton, In Gods name Mo. Samuel, what

ayleth

aileth you and why do you grone so? Said she, I haue a maruellous great paine in my belly on the suddaine, and I know not how it should be caused. Why said he, what is the matter in your belly? She answered, that there was something in it, which as she thought stirred, and it was as big as a penny loafe: and put her to maruellous paine: wherupon Mistresse Throgmorton arose out of her bed, and went and felt vpon her belly, and there was indeed a maruellous swelling to the quantitie before likened, but she felt it not stirre, not staying long with her, the weather was so cold, and be it spoken without offence to women, it may be that she bred then that childe, wherewithall she said she was, when she was asked what she could say (by my Lord the Iudge, why sentence of death should not be giuen against her,) as hereafter you shall heare. But whatsoeuer it was, she cried out to M. Throgmorton of her belly, and said she was full of pain, and further she said, that she had often told him, that she thought there was some euill spirits hanted his house, which did thus torment his children. which thing he told her that he did easily beleeue was true, and now saith she, I verely beleeue that one of them is gotten into my belly. Maister Throgmorton sayd, that all this might verie well be true. So she said, that it was an euil house, and haunted with spirits, and wished that she had neuer come into it: he told her that if there were anie euill spirits haunted the house, they were of her sending, and so he would grant all that she sayd. In the end she passed away that night with groaning and moning, and the next morning she was verie euill at ease she sayd, but her swelling in her belly was gone, and where her greatest paine was she could not tell, it was in so many places, but her stomacke was the best of any other part, and after this she continually complained of one part of her bodie or other, so long as shee stayed in the house.

Within a verie short time after, one of the children fell into a most terrible fitte mother Samuell standing by, and it was so greeuous vpon her for the time, as that neither shee nor anie of her sisters, had the lyke for the space of a yeare or two before, and especially her neesing fit was so terrible and strong vppon her as if it would haue caused

her eyes to start out of her head. This fit did greatly quayle mother Samuell, for shée her selfe did then thinke, that shée should haue séene the childe dyed at that présent, and this wrong out of mother Samuell prayers: so that shée desired the Lord then to helpe her, and to preserue her in that danger, and she hoped neuer to sée her in the like againe. But the more earnest mother Samuell was in her prayers, the greater was the childes trouble and torment, and the oftener she named God, or Jesus Christ, the stronger the childes fit was vppon her. And at that verie instant (as hereafter you shall heare of the rest) when she had thus continued some two houres or more, the spirit spake vnto the child and said, that there was a worse fit then this to come yet, wherein she must be worse handled then thus, the childe answered, that she cared neither for him nor his dame, but willed them to do their worst they could to her, for (she sayd) she hoped God would deliuer her, and sone after she came forth of her fit and was verie well; but the sight of this fit was so terrible to mother Samuell, as shée would many times pray that shée might neuer sée the lyke againe in anie of them.

The children continued still all of them calling vppon mother Samuell to make confession of this matter, saying that shée must do it before it be long, and as good at first as at last, but if she would now do it, that they might be well before Christmas, they would then thinke themselues beholding to her. They told her further, that now Christmas was at hand, and if she would now confesse it, they should be presently well, and keepe (by the grace of God) a merrie Christmas. She answered that she would do for them all the good she could, but for confession of this matter, she would not, for it was a thing she neuer knew of, nor consented vnto. Their father maister Throgmorton, hearing his children and the olde woman thus talke togither, stepped in and sayd, Mother Samuel you heare what these children say, which is, that if you would confesse this fact, they should be presently well and they say that you must confesse it before it be long, and you know that they haue not vsed to tell lyes in their fits. Now therefore in the name of God, if there be anie such matter, confesse it: it is

neuer

neuer too late to repent, and to aske for mercie: but she made to him the like answere that she had done to the children before. Then said he, but what say you to that grieuous fit which the spirit of late threatned to my daughter Iane, I would fain know when that should be. Oh saith she (remembring the terror of it) I trust in God I shall neuer see her in such a case again, nor any of them all. Yes saith maister Throgmorton, I verely thinke she shall haue it, and that shortly, for the spirit you know vseth not to faile them in any thing he promiseth. Oh (saith she) I trust in God she shall neuer haue it, speaking maruellous confidently. Why saith M. Throg. charge the spirit in the name of God, that she may escape this fit which is threatned. She presently said, I charge thee spirit in the name of God, that mistresse Iane neuer haue this fit. The child sitting by said, truly the thing saith, I thanke God, that I shal neuer haue this fit, that he hath foretold me of. Saith maister Throgmorton, why, that is well, thankes be to God, go on mother Samuell, and charge the spirit in the name of GOD, and speake from your heart, that neither she nor any of them all haue their fittes any more. So she said as maister Throgmorton willed her, speaking maruellous heartily. The same child again said, truly the thing saith I thanke God, that I shall neuer haue it more after the Tuesday after Twelfeday. Saith maister Throgmorton, it is well thankes be to God, charge the spirit againe in the name of God, and speake from your heart, and be not afraide, that he depart from them all now at this present, and that hee neuer returne to them againe, whiche wordes she vttered verie loude, and verie boldly. So sone as she had ended, then those three children that were then in their fits, & had so continued for the space of three weekes, wiped their eyes, and at that instant thrust backe the stooles whereon they sat, and stood vppon their legges, being as well as euer they were in their liues. M. Throgmorton had his face now towards the children, & his back to the old woman, & seeing them so to start vp sodenly, said thankes be to God. While he was thus speaking (litle knowing or thinking indeed of any such matter) ỳ old woman fell down behind him on her knees & said, good M. forgiue me. He turned him about, and seeing her down, said, why mother Samuell what is the matter? O sir said she, I haue bene the cause

of all this trouble to your children. Haue you mother Samuell sayd hée? and why so? what cause did I euer giue you thus to vse me and my children? None at all sayd she. Then said maister Throgmorton, you haue done me the more wrong. God maister sayd she, forgiue me. God forgiue you sayd he, and I do: But tell me, how came you to be such a kinde of woman? Maister, sayd she, I haue forsaken my maker, and giuen my soule to the diuell (these were her verie wordes.) And olde mistresse Throgmorton their grand-mother, and mistresse Throgmorton their mother, being now in the hall, (for this was done in the parlour,) hearing them verie loud (not vnderstanding the matter perfectly) came in into the parlour, of whome, (when mother Samuell saw her) she asked likewise forgiuenesse. Mistresse Throgmorton their mother, presently without any questions forgaue her with all her heart, yet she could not well tell what the matter was. Mother Samuell asked those three children that were there forgiuenesse, and afterwards the rest, kissing all of them: the children easily forgaue her, for they knew not that she had offended any of them, in their own persons: (except what they saw in their sisters, when they themselues were out of their fits.) Maister Throgmorton & his wife, perceiuing the old womã thus penitent, and so greatly cast downe: for she did nothing but weep & lament all this time, comforted her by all the good meanes they could, and said that they would frely forgiue her from their hearts, so be it their children might neuer be more troubled. She answered, that she trusted in God, they should neuer haue their fits again, yet would she not be comforted for any thing that they could say. Then M. Throgmorton did send for M. Doctor Dorrington, the Minister of that town, & told him all the matter with the circumstances, desiring him to comfort her, which they all ioyning togither, did so well as they could at that present: yet could not she forbeare weeping, & so continued all that night. The next day which was the Sabboth day, and Christmas euen, M. Doctor Dorrington chose his text of repentance out of the Psalmes, on set purpose to comfort her, and there declared in the open assembly, all the matter of mother Samuelles late confession, applying his speeche directlie to the comforting of a penitent heart, and so by consequence of her. All this Sermon

2.5.

time,

time, mother Samuel did nothing but weepe and lament, and many times was so very loude with sundrie passions, that she caused all the church to loke on hir. And thus much farther you shal know for this point: maister Throgmorton the same day after praiers were ended, very wisely remembring himselfe, and the old womans inconstancie heretofore, called to mind ỹ there was none present at her confession but himselfe and maister Doctor, with his owne household, who might be all thought partiall in this matter, willed therefore mother Samuell to come into the body of the church, and there demaunded of her before his neighbours, whether that confession which she ouer night had made to him and maister Doctor was wrested and wrong out of her, or whether it proceeded frankly and frely of and from her self. She answered before them all that it came of hir selfe, and desired all her neighbours to pray to God for her, and to forgiue her.

Towards night maister doctor Dorrington vnderstanding the old woman still to continue in this heauie case, came to maister Throgmortons house (who is his brother in law by marriage) and intreated him (vpon simplicitie of good will) tendring the old womans comfort, to giue her leaue to go home to her husband, and he would be a meanes that her husband should receaue her, and to reconcile them together, wherein the old woman was maruellous dutifull. To this motion maister Throgmorton did easily graunt at the first, being as willing to comfort the old woman, as any, and indeed vsed the meanes himselfe also that her husband might receiue her, little suspecting that any thing should fall out thereby otherwise then well. The man when he vnderstood of it, spoke bluntly (as his manner was) saying that she might come home if she would.

Now that you haue heard this old womans confession, it may happilie seeme strange in some points to some, but for the truth of it, it is as certainlie true, as is any part of this booke, both the matter and the maner, and the words also obserued in al points, so neare as possibly could be remembred. Mother Samuel is now vpon Christmas euen at night gone home to her husband and her daughter, wher we doubt she hath a cold welcome for her intertainment, and the rather because she hath confessed this matter, for it should seem that they both set vpon her (as the por selfe after

confessed, & so far forth prevailed with her, as that the next morning, which was Christmas day, she denied all that she had sayd before, and it was no such matter with her. Before night it came to M. Throgmortons hearing that this new conuert had reuolted again, and had denied all that she had spoken to him: the best comfort he had herein, was the open confession she made in the church, and therupon did hardly beleeue that which was reported of her.

The same day in the euening, maister doctor Dorington and M. Throgmorton wēt to her house to know the truth, and when they came at the dore, it pleased God that Iohn Samuel, his wife, and his daughter were talking of this matter, for it should seeme that it was all their talke, which they vnderstanding, stayed a while, and heard the daughter say these words, Beleeue them not, beleeue them not, for all their faire speeches. Herevpon they went both presently into the house and charged the daughter with these words, which she vtterly denied, as did also the father and the mother. Then did maister Throgmorton demaund of her, concerning the matter which before she had confessed in his house and in the church, telling her that he had heard that she had denied it againe. She answered, that she would denie that shee was a witch, or any cause of the troubling of his children. Why, sayd he, did not you confesse so much vnto me? I sayd so (sayth she) indeed, but it is nothing so. Why then, sayd he, I must not shew you that fauour which I promised: I will surely haue you before the Iustices: but sayd he, why did you confesse it to be so to me, if it be not so? She answered, For ioy. For ioy, sayd he, (smiling to himselfe, marueling what she could make of it) and and why for ioy? Because sayd she, I did see your children so presently well, after your good prayers and mine. Then sayd maister Throgmorton vnto her, I pray God so continue them, notwithstanding howsoeuer it bee, I will not let passe this matter thus, for seeing it is published, eyther you or I will beare the shame of it in the end, and so they departed for that night.

The next morning betimes, maister Throgmorton went to maister doctor Doringtons house, and told him, that hee would not suffer this matter thus to die in his hand, least the worser sort of the people should imagine that this was but some deuise

of

of theirs, to bring the old woman into further danger. So they agréed to approue her once againe in this matter, and sending for her to the Church, they found her farther off from confessing any thing that shee had sayd or done, then euer she was before. Then maister Throgmorton toke her by the hand, and sayd that both she and her daughter should that day (by Gods grace) go with him to my Lord the Bishop of Lincolnes. So he presently sent for the Constables, and charged them with the mother and the daughter, and willed them to prouide for the iourney.

When the old woman perceiued preparation for the iourney, and the Constables in a readinesse, maister Throgmorton also putting on of his boots, she came to him and sayd, Maister if you will go with me into the parlor, I will confesse all to you alone. Sayd hée, I will go. So they went together, and there she confessed the whole matter againe vnto him which before shée had done. Why then sayd he, tell me why haue you denied it all this time? Oh sayd she, I would neuer haue denied it but for my husband and my daughter, who sayd that I was a fole in confessing of it, and that it had bene better for me to haue died in the same estate I was in, then to confesse my selfe a Witch, for now euery bodie will call me old Witch whilest I liue. Maister Throgmorton told her, if she would persist in confessing the truth, hée would shew her all the fauour he could. In this meane while commeth in vnto them maister Doctor Dorington, and he fell into questioning with her, but she séemed something coldly to confesse that vnto him which before she had done: so he driue her aside, and maister Throgmorton went from them. Then did maister Doctor Dorington call for penne, ynke, and paper, and wrote downe that confession which she made. In the meane time maister Throgmorton sent to the Church, which is adioyning to his house, and there being diuers of his neighbours, for it was about prayers time, he desired them to come to him: and telling them the matter, placed them hard vnderneath the Parlor window where maister doctor and this old woman were talking together. Wherof when notice was giuen to maister Doctor, hée spake very loude, and willed the old woman to lift vp her voice also, fayning something, so that the neighbours which were without might easily heare all ỹ words

that passed betweene them. Whē they had done, M. Throgmorton went vnto them into the parlor, & desired them to come forth into the hall: when they came, there stood al ỹ neighbors that had heard this matter, then beganne M. Doctor to read in their presence that which the woman had confessed, but she would faine haue denied al again. Nay said the neighbors to her, it is to late to denie any thing now, for we heard al this with our ears, telling to her the place where they were. When she perceiued herselfe thus catched in a trap, she would haue made the best of it, but it would not prevaile. As they were thus in the house together, came in Iohn Samuell the old womans husband, who had vnderstood that there was somthing to do in the house cōcerning his wife. Whē he was come, M. Throgmorton told him that which his wife had againe confessed, & with the rest he said, that his wife would neuer haue denied that which she did but for him and his daughter. Hast thou sayd so? sayd he to his wife (giuing hir a foule terme) and with that would haue stricken her, had not others stood betwixt them. The old woman perceiuing her husband thus fiercely comming towards her, fel down presently in a counterfet sownd before thē all. Mistresse Throgmorton standing by, was on the sudden maruellously amased therat, & called for *aquavitæ* for hir. When they toke her vp, they perceiued her countenance nothing altered, but that she loked chearefull ynough. One of her neighbors standing by, peraduenture better acquainted with her fashions then the rest, sayd, if they would let her alone, he would be their warrant, that she would doe well ynough: so presently after, she came to her selfe againe, and al was well. These circumstances about her confession are therefore the more expressly set downe although they be not so pertinent to the matter, neither indeed should haue bene declared at all, had it not ben reported by some in the countrie, and those that thought themselues wise, that this mother Samuell now in question, was an old simple woman, and that one might make her by fair words cōfesse what they would. But to leaue that to the iudgement of them that knew her well ynough, Maister Throgmorton continued on his iornie, purposing to discharge himselfe of the matter, and caused the old woman with her daughter to be carried the same day to my L. the Bishop of Lincoln, and there he examined her and her daughter.

The

The Examination of *Alice Samuell* of Warbois, in the countie of Huntington, taken at Buckden before the right reuerend Father in God, *William* by Gods permiſſion Biſhop of Lincolne, the 26 of December, 1592.

BEeing aſked whether a dun chicken did euer ſuck on her chin, and how often, the ſaid Examinat ſayth, that it ſucked twiſe and no more ſince Chriſtmas euens euen laſt. Being aſked whether it was a natural chicken, ſhe ſaith it was not, ſhe knoweth it was no natural chicken, becauſe when it came to her chin ſhe did ſcarſe feele it, but when ſhe wiped it off with her hand, her chin did bleed. She ſaith further, that the ſayd dun chicken did firſt come vnto her and ſucke on her chin before it came to M. Throgmortons houſe, and that the ill and the trouble that hath come to M. Throgmortons children, hath come by means of the ſayd dun chicken, the which chicken ſhe knoweth is now both gone from them and from her. And further ſhe ſayth, that M. Throgmorton and M. doctor Dorington ſhall bring further information of ſuch things as yet ſhe hath not declared.

The Examination of *Alice Samuell* of Warbois in the Countie of Huntington, taken at Buckden the 29 day of December 1592, before the reuerend Father in God, *William* by Gods permiſſion Biſhop of Lincolne, *Francis Cromwell*, and *Richard Tryce*, Eſquiers, Iuſtices of her Maieſties peace within the Countie aforeſayd.

SHe ſaith ſhe neuer did hurt to any, ſauing to the childrē in queſtion. Being demaunded how ſhe knoweth the ſayd dun chicken is gone from the ſayd children: ſhee ſayth, becauſe the ſayd dun chicken with the reſt, are now come into her, and are now in the bottome of her bellie, and make her ſo full, that ſhe is like to burſt, and this morning they cauſed her to be ſo full, that ſhe could ſcant lace her cote, and that on the way as ſhe came, they weighed ſo heauie, that the horſe ſhe rid on did fall downe and was not able to carrie her. And further ſhe ſayth, that the vpright man of whome ſhe hath confeſſed to maiſter Throgmorton, told her that M. Throgmorton

was a hard man & would trouble her much, wherefore he would giue her sir spirits that should vex and torment his children, and so he did: which spirits had reward of her by sucking of her blod oftentimes when they were without her body, and that the sayd spirits did suck of her blod before she sent thē forth any whither. She saith further, that whatsoeuer the children of M. Throg. did speake in their fits proued true & was true: as for example, whē-soeuer the said children said they did see the said spirits, then were the spirits there, & she did also see thē. And she saith, ỳ often times she did giue a priuie becke or nod, with her finger or head, & then the spirits did presently stop the childrens mouth, that they could not speake vntill they came out againe: & then would ỳ children wipe their eyes and be well again. Further she saith, that it was taught her of a mā that did come vnto her house, but where he did dwell, or what his name was, she cannot tell, who told her that if she would call the said sir spirits they would come: and she called them, & they appeared in the likenes of dun chickens, their names were as followeth: first, Pluck; secōd, Catch, the third White, and the other three she called with her mouth with three smacks: and two of them, she (this examinate) sent to M. Ro. Throgmorton of Warbois and his wife, and they returned again, and told her that God would not suffer them to preuaile. Wherupon she (this Examinat) sent the said spirits to the children of the said M. Throg. by means wherof they haue ben so strangely tormēted, as to the neighbours and countrie hath bene seene. She sayth further, that what the children did speake in their fits in her hearing, ỳ it was true, & so it fel out. Being asked further what the vpright mans name was that gaue her the diuels, she sayd she could not tell: wherupon she was moued to go into another chamber, & demaūd of her spirits what his name was, which she presently did, & there with a loud voice sayd these words as followeth O thou diuell, I charge thee in the name of the Father, the Son, & the Holy-ghost, that thou tel me the name of the vpright man which gaue me the deuils: which thing she did three times, and thē returned saying, that her spirits had told her ỳ his name was Langlād. And being demaunded where the said Langland dwelled, she said she could not tell. Then was she moued to go into the said chamber again, and demaund of her spirits where ỳ said Langland dwelt: which

also

also she presently did, & there with a lowd voice three times sayd; O diuell I charge thee in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy-ghost, tel me where the said *Langland* dwelleth, then she returned and sayd that he had no dwelling. Then was she further moued to go again & demand where ỳ said Langland was at that present, which also she did, and demaunded as before, & returned with this answer, That her spirits told her that he went the last voiage beyond the seas. After these cõfessions thus made, mother Samuel and hir daughter were committed to the gayle of Huntington. Now that we haue brought mother Samuell to the gayle, we will let her there rest in Gods peace and the Quẽnes vntill the next generall assises day holden at Huntington, and although many things fel out vnhappily concerning her, during her continuance in the gayle, whereof she was greatly suspected, as the death of one of the Gaylers seruants whom she threatned, the extreme sickneſſe of one of his children, with his present amending after the scratching of her, and diuerse other thinges which are shrewd pẽces of euidence against her, if there had bene nothing else layd to her charge: yet because they doe not concerne the trouble of these children, neither is a matter so perfectly knowne to the author of this booke, it is therefore but touched by the way.

And to come vnto the daughter Agnes Samuel, who now commeth vpon the stage with her part in this tragedie, you shall vnderstand that she was left with her mother in the gayle vntil the Sessions day held at Huntington the 9 of Ianuarie following, which day was the Tuesday that the children so often had spoken of to the old woman.

At dinner time M. Throgmorton made his request to the high Sheriffe & the Iustices to baile this maid, & to haue her home to his house, to see, if it might please God, whether any such euidences of guiltinesse would appeare against her, as had before appeared in the children against the mother. This suite was not easily granted, for it was a demur amongst the Iustices whether the maide was baylable by law in this case or no. In the end M. Throgmorton cõtinuing his suite, they being resolued of ỳ doubt, graunted it: but it was almost three of the clock in the afternoon before, as euery body cã witnesse ỳ were thẽ present; which time

is therefore here mentioned because it hath relation to the next point that hereafter followeth, as you shall heare.

The report of M. Doctor *Dorington* of that which happened at Warbois, on Tuesday which was the Sessions day at Huntington, the 9 of Ianuarie.

ABout twelue of the clocke a little before dinner, Marie, Ione, and Grace, the daughters of Robert Throgmorton, Warbois aforesayd, Esquier, fell into their accustomed fits of lamenesse, blindnesse, deafnesse, and want of feeling, only their yongest brother Robert of the age of nine yeres, might speake vnto Iane with her vnderstanding, and she only might speak in the like maner to Marie and Grace. Immediatly after dinner their vncle M. doctor Dorington parson of Warbois, comming to see them with a scholler of Cambridge, found them all three in their fits, which seemed not so grieuous at that time as merrie and pleasant, repeating oftentimes these words, ech one of them: I am glad, I am glad, none so glad as I. The said M. doctor their vncle, willed their brother to aske them wherefore they were so glad. Iane answered him, we shal know within these two howers good newes. Stil wishing that two howers were spent, the two other sisters affirmed the same. Mary and Iane whispering secretly one in the others eare, spake thus much in our hearing oftentimes: I marueil how she should know that thing, I am sure none of this house told her, and therefore it cannot be but that the spirits told her. The said Robert was willed again by his vncle doctor, to aske of Iane, and Iane to aske of Mary and Grace, when they should come forth of this fit, they all answered, Now by and by, and then we shall go well al of vs into the hall, out of this parlor, and thence returning quickly hither againe, we shall presently enter into another fit like vnto this, and then you shall heare newes, for by that time the two howers will be almost spent: yet after we haue told the newes we shall haue a paying fit, but it shall be short. All these thinges foretold, proued most true, for they came out of their fit perfectly well, they did arise off from their stooles themselues, and all three of them went first out of the great Parlor into an inward lesse Parlor, to see how their mother did, then being not well at ease, and

keeping

keeping her bed. Presently they went from this into the hall, to see their sister Elizabeth then sitting by the fire, and being there, they were willed by one of their kinswomen in the house, not to returne any more into the sayd parlour, but notwithstanding that counsell, they would néedes go all three into the parlour. They were no soner entred into the sayd place, but euerie one of them fell into their former fits, lame, blinde, and deafe, insomuch as they must néedes be carried to their stooles by the fire side: where being once placed, they beganne to repeate againe, I am glad, I am glad, none so glad as I; and being demanded why, they answered all three, that Agnes Samuell should be brought to their fathers house from Huntington, and they should not heare Agnes Samuell as they did her mother, in their fits because their father should not trouble her with any more questions, and so the spirit telleth them. These words uttred they all seuerally, being asked one after the other, and then they all togither fel presently into extreame fits, of bowing their bodies, their heads and féete almost méeting togither, their bellies being highest with great groning. But this endured not long (thankes be to God,) then rubbing their eyes twise or thrice, they séemed as waking out of a sléep, and so became perfectly well as euer before, Iane uttering these words to the spirit, which as it should séem should say, we are gone: then mistresse Iane answered, farewell and be hanged. Their uncle Doctor there present with the rest, giuing thanks to God, asked them all how they did, and they said very well we thanke God, againe being asked how they felt themselues all this time of two houres past, they said ỳ they had bin in a sléep. He asked them further, if they had dined, which thing he knew they had done, for he found them al at dinner merry and pleasant, yet they answered, they had not dined, and yet they had no stomackes.

After Agnes Samuel was brought to maister Throgmortons house, the children continued for three or foure dayes without anie fittes at all, so that their parentes were put in great comfort that their children should then haue bene cleane deliuered from their torments: but it should séeme, that the matter was not yet brought to an end, for the children fell all of them a fresh into their fits againe, and were as grieuously afflicted as euer

they were in the olde womans time, and then the spirits did begin, as plainly to accuse the daughter as euer they did the mother, and do tell the children that the old woman hath set ouer her spirits to her daughter, and that she hath bewitched them al ouer againe, and that she will deale worse with them then euer her mother did. The children in their fits carried the same mind to the daughter and to her spirits, as they did to the mother before, saying that they cared not for any thing, that any of them all could do vnto them, for their trust was in God, and he would deliuer them out of her handes (they sayd;) many very straunge things fell out amongst them in one moneth next after, which because they were not particularly committed to writing, they are therefore here omitted.

Some after, the maid was thus brought as you here, to continue at M. Throgmortons house: mistresse Ioane the eldest daughter of the said M. Throgmorton, was brought home likewise frō Tichmarsh groue, where we left her, to Warbois to her fathers house, and if it should particularly be declared how she was dealt withall for the time she there continued, it wold ad another third part vnto this booke, & you wold think also that ỹ matters which could be spoken of her, would be nothing superfluous: but to let al that passe, let vs come vnto this present matter, as it was particularly obserued at Warbois.

Vpon Friday which was the 9. of February, 1592, Mistresse Ioane the eldest daughter of the said M. Throgmortō, fel into hir fit as vsually before she had done, & complained of great paine in her legs, which had bin sore 9. or 10. weekes before that, namely, the most part of ỹ time, while she continued at Tichmarsh groue, with her vncle M. Gilbert Pickering. But after she returned home to her sisters, she grew much worse in her legs thē before, & for ỹ space of a ful fortnight before this day, her legs were so ful of ache & paine, that she could neither walke nor sit, but only lye either vpon her bed, or els vpon cushions by the fire side. Cōtinuing thus in her fit all that day, towards night the spirit came vnto her, & she talked very familiarly with it, as her commō custom was, demanding of it from whence it came, and what newes it brought, speaking very disdainfully to it. The thing answered, that it would not tell her from whence it came, but this was the

newes

newes it brought, that she should haue verie extreame fits hereafter, and be worse handled then euer she was: saying that shee should now haue her fits, being in perfect memory, and hauing al her senses. She answered, that she neither feared nor cared for him, for God she said was on her side, and would protect her from him, so the thing departed without any further talke, and she continued in her fit, the most part of that night vntill she went to bed.

The next day which was Saterday, the tenth of February, for it would be too long to speake of euerie perticular houre, although almost euerie houre brought varietie with it, in the afternoone as she laie groning in her fit by the fire side, shee fell suddenly into bleeding at the nose, and bleed verie much, whereat she maruelled (for she did perceiue it) saying, I pray God send me good newes after this, for it is straunge with me to bleede, I bled not not so much this seuen yeares before, when shee had much bloudied her handkercheffe, she sayd that it was a good deed to throw the handkercheffe into the fire and burne the Witch, for she knew she sayd, that this bleeding came of no good cause. After she had talked thus to her selfe a little, it should seeme the spirit came to her: for she sayd thus smiling to her selfe, and casting her eyes about her, what is this in Gods name, that cometh thus tumbling to me? It tumbleth lyke a foot-ball, I thinke it be some puppit-plaier, it is much like his dames olde thrumd cappe. What is your name I pray you sayd shee? The thing answered (as it should seeme) that his name was Blew. For presently vppon the question demaunded of his dame, she made answere againe her selfe saying: Maister Blew you are welcome, I neuer saw you before, I thought sayd shee, that my nose bledde not for nothing, what newes haue you brought? It tolde her as before. What doest thou say saith shee, that I shall be worse handeled then euer I was? Ha: saith shee, what doest thou say? (For shee would euer repeate the spirits wordes after him as they all would do, when they were talking with them, bending their heades to the grounde) that I shall now haue my fittes, when I shall both heare, see, and know euerie bodie, that is a new tricke indeed, I thinke neuer any of my sisters were so vsed, but I care not

for you (saide she) do your worst, and when you haue done, you will make an end, these were her verie words.

Then was she silent a while, yet seemed to listen to something that the spirit did say, and presently called for Agnes Samuel, and asked where she was, saying ý she had but too much libertie, and that she must be more straightly looked vnto, for of late (said she) she was in ý kitchin chamber talking with her spirits (for so maister Blew had told her) and intreated him not to let me haue any such extreme fits, when I should both speake, heare, & know euery body. But he answered, that he would torment me in ý sort, and not giue ouer vntil he had brought his dame, meaning Agnes Samuell, vnto her end. So that now, saith mistres Ioane to her (for by that time she was called into the place to her) you haue spun a faire thread: your diuels (for so then she called them) wil be no longer at your commandement: it will be no better with vs, said she, vntill you & your mother be both hanged. The mayd standing by and hearing this, confessed indeed that she was in the kitchin chamber and alone: but she denied that she talked with any spirits, nor yet knew of any such thinges. Mistresse Ioane hearing her say so: willed her not to denie it, for it was surely so, she thought, saying, that she knew the spirits would not lye to her. Soone after, she came out of this fit, and greatly complained of paine in her legges, and being presently demanded where she had bene, and what she had said, she answered that she had bene a sleepe, and had said nothing that she knew of, marueiling much how her handkerchiffe which she had in her hand, should come to be so bloudie, for said she, it was not so euen now, & I am sure that I vse not to bleed: I beleeue said she, some bodie toke it from me, and bloudied it & hath giuen me it againe, (for this is the same handkerchiffe I had euen now, with many such like speeches.

At night presently vpon her father and mothers rising from supper, she fell into the fit which before M. Blew had threatened her, for she was most greeuously wrong & twitched in euerie part of her body, somtimes she wold thrust forth her armes so straight, and so stiffe, that it was not possible to bow them: sometimes againe, she would so wrest and writhe them cleane backwards, as that no man or woman were able to do the like, by their natu-

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all ſtrength, ſhe her ſelfe crying out very pitifully, ſometimes of her ſtomacke, ſaying that ſhe was very ſick, and offered to vomit, ſometimes of her head, and other whiles of her belly, and neuer a part or member of her, was free from extreame pain, ſhe her ſelfe euer calling vpon God to thinke vpon her, and deliuer her. Sometimes it would ſo ſtop her breath, and hold it ſo long, that when ſhe could recouer it againe, ſhe fetched a maruellous deepe and loud grone. And being oftentimes aſked in this fit by diuers that ſtood by how ſhe did, ſhe made anſwere, that ſhe was maruellous ſicke and full of paine, affirming that ſhe both heard and ſaw, all that were preſent. In this wofull caſe ſhe continued the ſpace of halfe an houre and more, to the great griefe of the beholders, (for this is one of the firſt fits, that either ſhe or her ſiſters had, hauing their perfect ſences.) Now on the ſuddain as ſhe was thus complaining, ſhee fell into her ſenſleſſe fit, hauing her mouth alſo ſhut vp, and now is ſhe depriued of all maner of ſence againe. Remaining thus quietly a litle ſpace, ſhe fetched a great groane, whereupon her mouth was opened, and ſhe ſpake ſaying: Here is a rule indeede, I perceiue that you are as good as your word with me, from whence come you now, and what newes do you bring now I pray you? The thing anſwered, that ſhe muſt be yet worſe handled then all this commeth vnto. Saith ſhe, God is aboue the diuell, and do what you can, for you ſhall not be able to hurt me. But tell me, why do you puniſh me worſe then all my ſiſters, hauing my fits when I can know euerie bodie? The thing anſwered, becauſe ſhe told tales of their dame: who is your dame (ſaith ſhe?) he anſwered Nan Samuell. And this you muſt vnderſtand, in all their maner of talking togither, that the children would firſt repeate the ſpirits anſwere, before they would aſke any further queſtiõ of them. Thẽ ſaid ſhe, if Nan Samuel be your dame, I will tell more tales of her yet, and I hope to tell ſuch a tale of her one day, that ſhe ſhall not be able to anſwere it, nor you for her. The thing anſwered, that he would then puniſh her the more for it. She ſaid that ſhe cared not for that. Then ſaid the thing, when was Smacke with you? (this Smacke was an other of the ſpirits names.) Saith ſhe, I know no ſuch felow as Smack is, yes ſaith the thing, that you do: and he it is that telleth you all theſe thinges, but I will courſe him for it. Saith ſhe, do your

worst to him or to me, for I care not for you. Farewell, saith the thing. Do you bid me farewell, saith she? fare you wel & be hanged (for you shal haue the truth as she spoke it) & come again saith she when you are sent for. Soone after this she came forth of her fit and was very sick, and full of pain in her legs. The next day which was the Sabboth, she was reasonable well all the forenoone, as she was all other dayes, but her greatest panges & fits were alwaies towards night. And thus leauing her vntil night, you shal heare what happened, the same day, amongst others of her sisters. Soone after dinner was ended, there came vnto the house one maister Throgmorton of Brampton, to see how these children did, & staying in the parlor a litle while, one of these children, mistresse Elizabeth by name, as she was comming in at the parlor dore, fell sodenly into her fit in the sight of them all, which was not strange to any, but to the gentleman (because it was an vsual thing with her.) Cõtinuing thus a litle space, M. Throgmorton the childes father, said to the other M. Throgmorton his kinsman, will you see cosin saith he, a wonder? Saith the gentleman, haue you any greater wonders thẽ to see this sight? Saith the childes father, I haue as great, for you shall see this childe brought out of this case wherin now you see her, at the pronouncing of certain words by a mayd in this house. Saith the gentleman, I would faine see that, for I am sorie to see this sight. So the childes father called for Agnes Samuel, and willed her to say to the childe these wordes, I charge thée diuell in the name of the God of heauen and earth as I hate thée, and am no Witch, nor guiltie of this matter, that thou depart from this childe, and suffer her to come forth of her fit. This said by the mayd, the childe moued not. Then the childes father willed her to say thus, I charge thée thou diuell, as I loue thée, and haue authoritie ouer thée, and am a Witch, and guiltie of this matter, that thou suffer this childe to be well at this present. These words were no soner ended, but the childe wiped her eyes, and was as well as any in the parlour. As the gentleman was thus wondring and talking with this maid about the matter, saying that she could tel a prettie tale for her selfe, another of those children mistresse Iane standing by, fell presently into her fit, and the same experience was made by her, as was made by her sister before. And this was verie

rie vſuall amongſt them, for it had bene proued diuers times, and was foretold by the ſpirit to one of them being in her fit, (a fortnight before this time:) that whenſoeuer Agnes Samuell ſhould ſay theſe words, they ſhould be preſently well.

To returne to miſtreſſe Ioane, who was very ſick & ful of pain all that day, & when night came, preſently after ſupper fell into the ſame maner of fit, which ſhe had the night before, for ſhe was moſt greeuouſly twitched, wrong, & tormented in euery part of her body, hauing her perfect ſences, for ſhe was able to ſee, heare, and vnderſtand, euery thing that was aſked of her, & this kind of fit continuing ſome certain ſpace, ſhe fell on the ſuddaine into a ſenſleſſe fit: and being ſilent a while, hauing her mouth ſhut vp, ſhe fetched a great groane, and ſaid, from whence come you M. Smacke, and what newes do you bring? The ſpirit anſwered, that he came from fighting. From fighting ſaith ſhe, with whō, I pray you? The ſpirit anſwered with Pluck, (which was an other of the ſpirits names.) Where did you fight I pray you ſaid ſhe? The ſpirit anſwered in his old dames backhouſe, which is an old houſe ſtanding in mother Samuels yarde, and they fought with great cowlſtaues, this laſt night. And who got the maiſtry I pray you ſaid ſhe? He anſwered that he broke Plucks head. Saith ſhe, I would that he had broke your neck alſo. Saith the ſpirit, is that all the thanke that I ſhall haue for my labour? Why ſaith ſhe, do you looke for thanks at my hands? I would you were all hanged vp one againſt another, and your dame and all, for you are all nought, but it is no matter ſaith ſhe, I do not well to curſe you, for God I truſt wil defend me from you all. So he departed and bad her farewell. And being aſked by her when he would come againe, he ſaid on Wedneſday at night, he was no ſoner gone, but preſently came Pluck to her. For ſhe ſaid, from whence come you Pluck, with your head hanging downe in that ſort. So he anſwered her in all reſpects, according as Smacke before had told her. Then ſaid the ſpirit to her, when ſaw you Smack. She anſwered, that ſhee knew no ſuch fellow. He ſaid, yes that ſhee did, but ſhee wold not be to know of him. It ſhuld ſeem ſaid ſhe, that you haue met with your match, & with diuers ſuch like ſpeeches betwixt thē he departed. And ſhe ſon after came out of her fit, but was very il, & cōplained of paine in her legs. The next day being munday, ſhe

was verie ſicke all the day, and in the afternoone ſhe fell into a maruellous extreame fit hauing perfect ſences, for the ſpace of halfe an houre or more. Agnes Samuel ſtanding by, and ſeeing the extremitie thereof, ſeemed to pray with others verie heartily for her: for the greeuouſneſſe of that ſight would haue moued anie ſtony heart in the world to pittie. And being asked of the matter, what ſhe thought of it, and whether it was wantonneſſe or not, as ſhe had oftentimes ſaid before, ſhe came to the houſe (as wel as her mother had done) but now ſhe could not deny, but that it was ſome ſupernaturall worke in the patient. Notwithſtanding as may be thought, ſhe that was thus tormented, neuer once conceiued an euill thought againſt her, all the time that ſhe had her perfect ſences: this kinde of fit ended ſhe was well excepting the paine in her legs. After ſupper, ſo ſone as her parents were riſen with the reſt, ſhe fell into the ſame fit againe hauing her ſences, and within halfe an houre, ſhe was on the ſodaine ſnatched into her ſenceleſſe fit, and preſently ſhe had her mouth opened & ſaid, will this geare neuer be left? I hope it wilbe better one day with you, from whence come you now Catch (ſaith ſhe) limping in that ſort? I hope you haue met with your match. Catch anſwered, that Smacke and he had bene fighting, and that *Smack* had broken his leg. Said ſhe, that Smacke is a ſhrewd fellow belike, I would I could once ſee him. Pluck came yeſternight (ſaid ſhe) with his head broken, and now he hath broken your leg, I hope ſaid ſhe, that he will breake both your necks before he haue done with you. Catch anſwered, that he would be euen with him before he had done. Then ſaid ſhe, put forth your other leg, let me ſee if I can breake that alſo, for ſhe had a ſticke in her hand, the ſpirit told her that ſhe could not hit him. Can I not hit you ſaid ſhe? let me try. The the ſpirit as it ſhould ſeeme, put out his leg, for ſhe lifted vp her ſticke eaſily, and ſodainly gaue a great ſtroake on the grounde. You haue not hurt me ſaid the ſpirit. Haue I not hurt you ſayd ſhe? no, but I would if I could, for then would I make ſome of you come ſhort home. So ſhe ſeemed diuers times to ſtrike at the ſpirit, but he leaped ouer ẏ ſtick as ſhe ſaid, as if it had bin a Jacke of Apes. So after many ſuch toyes vſed betwixt them, the ſpirit departed, & ſhe came forth of her fit, continuing all that night and the next day very ſick, and full of pain in her legs. At night when

ſupper

ſupper was ended ſhe fell into her ſenſible fit againe, and continuing therein halfe an houer, ſhe fell into another kind of fit which is common to her & the reſt of her ſiſters, and reſting ſo ſilent a little ſpace, ſhe fetched a great grone & ſaid, Ha ſirrah, are you come now with your arme in a ſling M. Blew? who hath met with you I pray? The ſpirit anſwered, You know wel ynough. Do I know (ſayd ſhe) well ynough? how ſhould I know? Why (ſayd the ſpirit) Smack and I were fighting, and he hath broken mine arme. Sayd ſhe, that *Smack* is a ſtout fellow indeed belike, I hope he will breake all your neckes becauſe you puniſh me without a cauſe. I would ſayd ſhe that I could once be acquainted with him. We will be euen with him (ſayth Blew) one day. Why ſayd ſhe, what will you do? The ſpirit ſayd, That they would all fall vpon him and beat him. Sayd ſhe, Belike he careth not for you all, for he hath broken Plucks head, Catches legge, and your arme, now you haue ſomething to do, you may go heale your arme. Yea (ſaid the ſpirit) whē mine arme is whole we will beat *Smacke*. So for that night they parted, and ſhe came out of her fit, complayning of many parts of her body, ſo as it ſhould ſeeme that ſhe was more hartie and better at eaſe while the ſpirit talked with her by farre, then ſhe was when ſhe came forth of her fit, for ſhe would greatly complaine of her legges all the day, and the moſt part of the night in like ſort, ſo that ſhe herſelfe toke little reſt, and diſquieted them that lay neere her. The next day which was Wedneſday, ſhe was very ill, and when night came and ſupper was ended, ſhe firſt fell into her ſenſible fit, and after that was ended, ſhe fell into her ſenceleſſe fit. Anon, fetching a great ſigh, ſhe ſayd, Who ſent for you maiſter *Smacke*? He made aunſwere that he was come according to his promiſe which he made vnto her on Sunday at night. Belike ſayd ſhe, you will keepe promiſe, but I had rather that you would keepe you away, and come when I ſend for you: but what newes haue you brought? I tolde you ſayd he, that I had bene a fighting the laſt Sunday night, but I haue had many battels ſince. Yea ſo it ſeemeth, ſaith ſhe, for here was both Pluck, Catch and Blew, and they all came maymed vnto me. Yea, ſayd he, I haue met with them all. But I maruell, ſayd ſhe, that you could beat them, they are very great, and you are but a little

one. Said he, I am good ynough for two of the best of them together. But sayd she, I can tell you newes. What is that, sayd he? They will all at one time fall vpon you and beat you. He sayd, He cared not for that, he would beat two of the best of them. And who shall beat the other two, said she? for there is one that hath bene many times spoken of, and he carrieth the name of Hardname, for his name standeth vpon eight letters, and euery letter standeth for a word, but what his name is we know not (onely Hardname.) The spirit answered, that his cosine Smacks would helpe him to beat the other two. There are also two other Smacks as you may read in the old womans confession. What sayd she, shall your cosines Smacks helpe you? What, is there kindred amongst diuels? I neuer heard of that thing before, that the diuels were cosines God kepe me from that kindred. Such like foolish talke they had together at that time. In the end, the spirit sayd, You shall haue no moe such fittes as you haue had. No, sayd she, that is well, but you can do nothing but lie. Why sayd he, will you not beleeue me? No, sayd she, shall I beleeue the Diuell, who is the father of all lies? But you shall find it true sayd he. If I doe, then will I beleeue you, sayd she, but not before. I pray God it be true, but whether it be true or not, I care not a rush for you. No, sayd he, will you not thanke me? Thanke you, sayd she, hang you and all your fellowes, for I will not beleeue you no farther then I see you, neither doe I care for any of you all.

This Smacke hath oftentimes gone about to win her fauour, making very faire promises to her that he would do any thing for her, if she would loue him. But it hath pleased God by the worke of his good spirit, that she hath alwaies withstood him, denying him and defying him to the vttermost, wishing all euil to light vpon him and his fellowes, for so tormenting her and her sisters without cause, alwaies desiring the assistãce of Gods holy spirit to preserue her & her sisters from such temptations. In the end, she said, You haue told me many times that I should scratch Agnes Samuell, tell me now, when shall I scratch her? The spirit answered, that she should scratch her before the Assises. What said she, shal she stãd before ỹ iudges with a scratcht face? Yea, said the spirit, so it should be. She answered, that she would set it on

whensoeuer

whensoeuer she did it: and said she, loke that you be as good as your word in this matter, for I would fain scratch her, for whatsoeuer the matter is, said she, I cannot abide her now adaies, and I am sicke when I loke on her, (and so indeed she was) for she would not suffer her willingly to stay in her companie when she was out of her fit: and being asked the cause why, she sayd shee could not tell, for she did beare her no malice nor grudge in the world, neither did she giue her any euill words, yet she sayd, she loathed her companie. In the parting, the spirit told her that she should haue no mo fits after ỹ Assises. No, said she, I am very glad of that. But said the spirit, if you haue, then woe be to Agnes *Samuell*, for I will bring her to her end. And thus the spirit left her, not saying any thing of his returne, and shee presently came out of her fit, and was much better then ordinarily she vsed to be, and the next day she was able to go very well on her legges, whereof she had no vse a whole moneth before.

On Munday next following, which was the twentith of Februarie after supper, she began to talke againe, hauing bene in her fit an howre or more before, for she had eatẽ her supper in her fit, with two other also of her sisters that were in their fits. On the sudden she said, What are you come now? I had thought you would haue come no more, and that we should haue bene wel rid of you; but where haue you bene, said she? He answered, that his cosine *Smacke* and he, had bene fighting with Pluck & Catch, and they had beaten them both very much, so that they dare not come to her any more. So they had very much talke about fighting and such other matters, which before are set downe. In the end she asked when she should scratch Agnes *Samuell*. The spirit answered, that if she would now scratch her, then her face would be whole before the Assises, which must not be. So she willed him to loke to that which he promised, for she would kéepe her nails for her. Yea, saith the spirit, & she was also cõsenting to the death of the Lady Crumwel. What, saith mistresse Iaone, was she also consenting to the death of the Lady Crumwel? euen like ynough, I thought so, saith she. Yea, saith the spirit, & to proue this to be true, whensoeuer any stranger shall come into the house, you shall fall into your fitte, and if then Agnes *Samuell* shall come vnto you and say, As I am a Witch, and consenting

to the death of the Ladie Crumwell, so I charge thée to depart, and to let her come foorth of her fit, you shall bée presently well. So Mistresse Ioane repeated the same woords after the spirit which were then set downe in writing. If it be so, sayth mistresse Ioane, why then I hope she shal be hanged at the assises as well as her mother, and that sir Henrie Crumwell will looke to that matter. In the shutting vp of the talke, the spirit tolde her that she should haue her fits vpon the Assises day, and all manner of fits which at any time she euer had, but after the Assises day she should haue no mo fits, but if she had, then wo be to Agnes Samuell, for then (sayth the spirit) I will make her pay for it.

Vpon Fryday following when supper was ended, she fell into her talking fit againe, hauing had a very solemne fitte an hower before that time. On the suddaine she sayd, Smacke where haue you bene all this time? and how chaunce I talked not with you hauing bene in my fittes diuers times of late? Sayth Smacke, I was not at home, but now I bring you good newes. What is that, sayd she? The spirit sayd, You shall haue no moe fits vntill this day seuen-night, if you will arise betimes to morrow morning, otherwise if you do not, you shal haue your fit in the morning, which shall continue all the day to your trouble. Then sayd she, If rising early will preuent my fit, I will God willing, get vp betimes to morrow morning; which indéed she did, and escaped her fit that day. Then she demaunded why she should haue no mo fits that wéeke. The spirit answered, that Agnes Samuell intreated him that you should haue no mo fits, euen as I loued her: but sayd he, I loue her not, yet you shal haue no mo fits this wéeke, except some strangers come, if you will arise to morrow betimes. And why, sayd she, must I haue my fits if strangers come? The spirit answered, To bring her to shame. But when did you talke with her, sayd she? Euen now sayd the spirit in the Church chamber. She will denie that, sayd mistresse Ioane, whē she is asked of it. Yea, said the spirit, so it standeth her in hand: and you must haue one whole wéek of very sick fits, said the spirit, before the Assises. Must I, said she, for whole soule? Agnes Samuell will haue it so sayd the spirit. Let me know, said she, when that day shall be. You shall know this day sennight said he,

and

and in what ſort likewiſe your fit ſhall be. Before they parted, the ſpirit aſked how her legs did. She ſayd, well thanks be to God, why do you aſk? He ſaid, becauſe he was glad of it. Be glad for your ſelfe ſaid ſhe, and be not glad for me, for I will neuer thanke you for it, neither doe I paſſe for you a ruſh, for God I truſt will deliuer me in deſpight of you. So for that time he departed, and ſhe came out of her fit and was very well, and ſo continued all the next day, ariſing betimes in the morning. On Sunday following, being the 25 of Februarie, M. Throgmorton of Brampton who was the firſt ſtranger ẏ came next to the houſe (as is before named,) within one halfe houer after his coming, miſtreſſe Ioane fel into her fit, & had not long ſo cõtinued, but Smack came to her, to whom ſhe ſaid, How chanceth it that I haue my fit now, and you promiſed that I ſhould not haue it before Fryday next? He ſaid, that ſhe knew wel ynough. She ſaid, ſhe did not: thẽ he told her that ſtrangers were come, and now ſhe muſt haue her fit to proue Agnes Samuel a witch. Amongſt other talke, the ſpirit told her againe, that there was a very ſore wæke of ſicke fits to come ere it be long. She ſayd, ſhe cared not for it, for ſhe hoped that God would ſtand with her then, as well as he had done hitherto. As ſhe ſat thus in her fit talking with Smacke, one of her ſiſters ſat by her, (being in a very quiet fit alſo) on the ſudden ſhe ſayd: Siſter Ioane (for ſo was the childs name that ſate by her) the thing telleth me that you ſhall haue a very ſore fit by and by. The words were no ſoner ended, but her ſiſter fell into a maruellous ſicke and troubleſome fit, ſwelling and heauing in her body, groning and crying out as their maner was. Then M. Throg. the childs father called for Agnes Samuel, & willed her to hold the child, for ſaid he, I think you are beſt worthie to haue the trouble of it. After the child had ben in her arms ſtrugling & very troubleſome a certaine ſpace, her ſiſter that before had foretold of the ſicke fit ſhe had, ſpake, ſaying, Be of good comfort ſiſter Iane, for the thing telleth me that the worſt is paſt, & you ſhall be well by and by: for the thing ſaith that Nan Samuell is werie with holding of you, & therfore you ſhal be well, which preſently proued true, for her troubleſome fit then ended, & ſhe continued in a very quiet fit as before. Preſently vpõ this M. Throg. the childs father, told the other M. Throg. his cõſine, what words his daughter

Ioane before had spoken, namely, that when any strangers came, she should thereupon fall into her fit, and then if Nan Samuell should speake such and such words, she should come forth of her fit to proue her a Witch. M. Throgmorton the stranger earnestly desired to make proofe thereof. So the childs father bad Nan Samuell say after him, Euen as I am a witch, and consented to the death of the Lady Crumwel, so I charge thee spirit to depart, and to let her be well. The mayd began to speake them, but eyther she could not, or else she would not speake them playne, but she would alwayes say, Consenting to our death of our Ladie Crumwell; and she would not after three or foure times repeating ouer, speake the words plaine: so that she that was in her fit sayd, Here is something telleth me, that she will not speake them aright. In the end after much adoe she spake them, and presently she came out of her fit, and was very well. The same words were vsed to another of them that then was in her fit, & preuailed as well with her as with her sister. The next day at dinner mistresse Elizabeth being in her fit, was pointed vnto to say grace, & when she had halfe gone through it, presently her mouth was shut vp that she could not finish it. Then M. Throg. called for Nan Samuell, and willed her to charge the spirit to open her mouth againe, that she might finish her grace, which the maid did, and the child went through her grace, to the end of it. And this you should haue seene in common vse amongst them, that if three or foure of them had stood together readie to say grace, you should haue seene them all taken suddainly in their fits one after the other as they had begun to speake, or at the furthest before they had spoken two lines, & their mouths also shut vp, that they could not speake at al. Then M. Throg. laboured to teach Agnes Samuell a grace of two or three lines, but he could by no meanes get her to learne it by heart, although he caused his children to teach it her diuers times in a day. On Thursday following which was the first of March, mistresse Mary, who had bene well and without any fits euer since the Sessions day last at Huntington, was something euill at ease all the morning, and about nine of the clocke fell into a maruellous great quaking & trembling, and could not hold a ioynt of her, yet knew no cause why. Some after she was taken and fell into a maruellous troublesome

ſome fit, continuing therein about halfe an houer: in the end ſhe wared a little better, and ſaid, Is it true? do you ſay, This is the day wherein I muſt ſcratch the yong witch? I am hartilie glad of it, for I will ſurely pay her home, both for my ſelfe and my ſiſters. Maiſter Edward Pickering and M. Henrie Pickering, two of the childs vncles ſtanding by, with diuers others cauſed the maide to be brought vp into the chamber where the child was, to ſée what would be the iſſue of it, knowing very well that the mayde was able to keepe her ſelfe from ſcratching, if thée ſuch as the child was ſhould ſet vpon her at once. So ſone as the maid came into the chamber where the child was, the child ſayd, Art thou come thou yong Witch, who haſt done all this miſchiefe? The mayd ſéemed to ſtand amazed at thoſe words, for ſhe was not accuſtomed to heare any ſuch hard ſpéeches from the child. So one in the companie willed the mayd to take vp the child and carrie her down (for her legges were taken from her.) Miſtreſſe Mary ſuffered her ſelfe very quietly to be taken vp in her armes, and claſped her hands about her necke, but euen as the maid began to lift her vp, ſhe fell on ſcratching of her ſo eagerly and ſo fiercely, as that it was a wonder to all that ſaw it, ſaying, I wil ſcratch you, you yong witch, and pay you home for thus puniſhing of me and my ſiſters: the thing telleth me, that I had bene well, and neuer ſhould haue had my fits any more but for you. The mayde ſtood ſtill holding down her head (for the child knéeled vpon her knées) and cried very pittifully, yet either would not, or could not once pluck away her head. Nay ſaid the child, I know you crie, but the ſpirit ſayd that I ſhould not heare you, becauſe I ſhould not pittie you, and he it is that holdeth you now that you cannot get away from me. So the child ſcratched her face vntill the ſkinne came of, the breadth of a ſhilling, but there came no blood at all but water. In the end the mayd brought her downe into the Parlor, where the child ſitting a while in her ſtoole, ſéemed to be wonderfull ſorie for that ſhe had done, and ſayd, I would not haue ſcratched Nan *Samuell*, but the thing told mée that I ſhould doe it, and forced me therevnto, ſtretching forth mine armes, and ſtrayning my fingers whether I would or not, and made me to ſcratch her. And truly they that ſaw the manner of it, and knew the mild diſpoſition of the child,

might eaſily ſée that ſhe was ouerruled in the action, for ſhe was carried with ſuch vehemencie and crueltie for the time, againſt the maid, as that it appeared to be altogether beſides her nature. The child continued in her fit till an hower after dinner, & then being aſked of theſe matters, was altogether ignorant of any ſuch thing, and would not beléeue it, but whē ſhe ſaw the example in the maids face, & being told that ſhe had done it, ſhe brake into teares, and was maruellous ſorie to ſée it. The next day, being Friday, miſtreſſe Mary was in a very mild and ſolemn fit all the morning, and a little before dinner ſhe ſaid to her ſelfe and her ſiſters that were alſo in their fits: I am glad and maruellous glad, but ſhe wold not tel the cauſe why. Preſently ſhe ſayd to the thing that ſtood by her, But I know you wil lie to me as you haue oftentimes done. Nay, ſaid the thing, I vſe not to lie. No do, ſaid ſhe, who are you I pray you? The thing anſwered, *Smacke*. What ſaid ſhe, are you that *Smack* that vſeth to come to my ſiſter Ioane, & telleth her ſo many things? Yea, ſaid he, ſaying further that he neuer told her ſiſter Ioane any lie hitherto, neyther was this a lie that he told her. Then miſtreſſe Mary declared to her ſiſters, being all in their fits, that which *Smacke* had told her, which was, that after diner ſhe ſhould come out of her fit, & neuer more haue any fit, becauſe ſhe had ſcratched Agnes *Samuel*. So her ſiſters wiſhed that *Smacke* would come to them, and tell them the ſame. So after dinner ſhe came forth of her fit, as ſhe ſayd, and neuer had more fits afterward from that day to this (thanks be to God.) The very ſame day being the 2 of Februarie miſtreſſe Ioane fel in the morning into her fit, & being in her bed, it ſhould ſéeme ẏ *Smack* had bin with her, & had told her ſomthing, as afterward ſhe did declare to her ſiſters, being in their fits: for ſhe ſaid, I wil get vp and go down, & tell ſome newes. When ſhe was come down into ẏ parlor, & had ſate by ẏ fire ſome litle ſpace, ſhe ſpake on the ſuddain to ſomthing ẏ ſtood by her, ſaying: I wil not vouchſafe to loke on you, for you neuer come but you bring ſome ill news with you, for I was ſick ẏ laſt time you were here, and I maruel who ſent for you now? The thing anſwered her, You were ſick in déed the laſt time I was here, but now you ſhal be much worſe. Why do your worſt ſaid ſhe, for I paſſe not for you (ſéeming to ſpeak very angerly to him) for God, ſaid ſhe, wil

preſerue

preserue me, I feare you not. I maruell said she how your legge doth? I thinke Smacke spoke with you when he brake your leg, Yea said he, I pray you do not tel Smack that I was here: do you pray me? said she, I do not know that Smack, but if I did. I wold surely tell him, that he might breake your necke also. The thing answered, yes you know him well inough, for you made him break my leg, but I would not for any thing, that he should know that I was here said ỹ thing, but I wil make you pate for all this weeke that commeth in. Will you? saith she, I will laye with you what you wil, that I shal not be sick this week if I list, for one thing that I know. Yea saith he, I knowe very well that Smacke was with you this morning, but do both of you what you can, you shal haue a sicke weeke of it, & that you shal find, for you shalbe so sicke this next weeke, that your body shalbe sore al the next weeke after, for I wil course you, aswel as Smacke hath coursed me. Why said she, do you reuenge your selfe vpon me and not vpon Smacke? He said that he durst not deale with him, for he was to hard for him.

After a little silence betwixt them, she asked her sisters, that were likewise in their fittes, if they did not see Catche who talked with her euen now? They answered no. Why then sayd she, belike he is gone, for neither do I see him, then shee begunne to talke verie softly with them, as if no bodie should heare them, saying, that Smacke was with her in the morning when shee was in her bedde, and told her that this next weeke will be a marueilous sicke weeke to her, which he could not helpe, but he did so beate Plucke as he told me, that he wil neuer come at me againe, and if euer he commeth againe, then he saith he will kill him: but he said to me, if you will goe to some friendes house, and staie there all the weeke, then you shall be well, and escape this sicke weeke: but I tolde him sayd she, that I had no friends house to go vnto, nor to none I would go to, do he what he wold, then he willed me to go to Sommersom (which is a town two miles from Warbois) where somtimes she hath bin, with an vncle of hers, since her first visitation in this sort, & bin very well, but I maruel said she, how he knoweth Sommersom, I thinke he knoweth all the Countrey ouer, but I tolde him that I would not once stirre my foote out of the doore for him, do he what he

could. Then her sisters asked whē Smack would come again. She said, that he told her, that he would come sone at night after supper. In the meane time certaine strangers came in, who were desirous to sée her out of her fit, which was done by the charge of Agnes Samuel. Namely, as she was a Witch & consented to the death of the Lady Crumwell, &c. At night a litle before supper she fell into her fit again, & so continued til supper was ended. When the companie were risen from the bord, and set by the fire, Smack came to her againe, and talked with her about those fits, which she should haue the nert wéeke, saying that he could not do withall, except she would go from home. She said that she would not, and therfore willed him to do his worst. Then said he, when was Catch with you? She told him ẏ Catch was there to day, & threatned to punish her ẏ nert wéek with wonderful sick fits, because he said, ẏ I had caused you to breake his leg, but I hope said she, that you wil break his neck also, & some body wil breake yours, for you are all nought. Smack answered, that he would course Catch for it, & warrant her that he would neuer come again to her when he had done with him. Then said she, tell me when shall my fits begin, & whē shal they end? He said, ẏ on mūday nert in ẏ morning they must begin, & end that day sennight in ẏ morning. You will haue a whole wéek belike (said she.) yea said he, it must be so, & you shal be sore in your body ẏ nert wéeke after. On Saterday which was the nert day, she had diuers fittes, and was brought out of them by Agnes Samuels charge, and so likewise on the Sunday. When Munday came which was the day appointed for ẏ beginning of these troublesome fits, it kept promise with her, for in the morning she ware d marueilous sicke & euill at ease, hauing her perfect sences, as it was also foretold that she should haue, and so continued all the wéeke: the maner whereof, hereafter shall be declared, because certain accidents worthy the remembrance befell some other of her sisters in this wéeke, which shall first haue their place.

Mistresse Elizabeth one of these children and before spoken of, was all this wéek troubled with very sodaine and extraordinary fits, for she was twitched and wrong in her body more grieuously this wéeke, then she was many moneths before, which violent passions in her, made vs coniecture, that there was some extraordinary

ordinary matter in working: for it could not be that such violence should continue long, for if it had, it could not but haue cost her her life. And to passe ouer manie matters of strangenesse, which befell in that weeke, we will come to Saterday which was the tenth of March: on which day as this child sate at supper, it should seeme by the manifold signes she made with her handes and head, and by her humming with her voyce, that she would faine haue spoken to something that stood on the table, but she could not, her mouth was shut vp. Then she began to lament maruellous bitterly a good space, yet could not declare her griefe. Soone after, shee fell into a most troublesome fit, which would not suffer her to sit on her stole. Then the mayd Agnes Samuell, was willed to hold her, which shee did: and after a while she beganne to growe more quiet. And an other of her sisters younger then she, Grace by name, was more troubled then she was, so Nan Samuell set downe the one, and toke vp the other, and as she was holding this Mistresse Grace in her armes, the other child mistresse Elizabeth that sat hard by her, said on the sudden in a maruellous anger to her, now I can see the yong Witch which I could neuer do before since she came to the house in my fit. The cõpany that sate at supper, thought that there was some extraordinary matter in working, that the child should call the yong maid Witch, for it was neuer heard by any body, that euer she gaue either her or her mother, any euill word before, either in her fit or out of her fit: presently she said to her, my sister Ioanes diuel told me euen now as I sate at supper, that I must scratch the yong Witch. So soone as euer she had sayd so, she slipped from the bench whereon she sat, and fell vpon her knees, for she was not able to stand, and caught the mayd by the hand that stood hard by her, holding of her sister, and scratched one of her handes most fiercely to see, with both her hands, and saying that it was she that had bewitched her and all her sisters, and she had bene well long since but for her. O thou yong Witch, O thou yong Witch, fie vpon thee, fie vpon thee, who euer heard of a yong Witch before? and thus she cryed with such vehemencie of speech, and eagernesse of scratching, as that both her breath and strength fayled her. When she had breathed a while, she fell vpon her againe, and said that this was her

ster Ioanes diuel who vseth not to lye, that made her to scratch her, for said she, I would not haue scratched you, and it was full euil against my will to do it, but the diuel maketh me to scratch you, stretching forth mine armes, & bending my fingers, otherwise I would not do it, but I must do it, and so must all my sisters scratch you, though they be neuer so vnwilling to do it, as my selfe now am, these words she vttered and many moe, to the like effect, in that time wherein she scratched her. All this time the mayde held the other childe in her armes still, neuer once offering to plucke away her hand from her, but cried out verie pittifully, desiring the Lord to thinke vppon her. Then did one that stood by, demaund of her, and willed her to speake her minde as she thought, whether the childe did scratch her of her owne will and desire or not. She answered, that she thought she did not, nay saith she, I know she did not, and that it is no part of her will thus to scratch me. The childe when she was weary the second time with scratching of her, on the suddaine put forth both her handes, and said loke you here, the diuell saith, that I must scratch her no more now, for my fingers are thrust forth so straight, that I cannot bend them, and so it appeared that they were, for she held forth her hand, and her fingers were verie straight and stiffe, then she rubbed her hand vpon the maydes hand that bled a little, and wiped the bloud vpon her owne hands, and this the childe did oftentimes, while she talked with her. Presently vppon the scratching ended, the childe beganne to weepe, insomuch that many teares fell from her eyes, and cryed maruellous bitterly, and sayd to the mayd, I would not in any wise haue scratched you, but the diuell made me, and forced me whether I would or not, oh that you neuer had deserued to be thus vsed, and her maner of complaining was, as if she had committed some great offence. Whē this weeping sit was something asswaged, she beganne to exhort her, lifting vp her voyce with such vehemencie and desire for her amendment, as that we may verily thinke, the like was neuer heard to come forth of a childes mouth. It is not possible to set downe all the wordes of exhortation she spake vnto the mayd at that tyme, but these were some of them, and the verie wordes so neare as could be remembred. Oh that thou hadst

grace

grace to repent thée of thy wickednesse, that thy soule might be saued: for thou hast forsaken thy God, and giuen thy selfe to the deuill. Oh that thou diddest knowe what a precious thing thy soule was, thou wouldst neuer then so lightly haue parted with it: thou hadst néede to pray night and day, to get Gods fauour againe, otherwise thy soule shall be damned in hell fire for euer. Thou doest oftentimes pray here at home, when we pray, and likewise at Church, but thou prayest in vaine, because thou prayest not with thy heart: but I will pray for thée with all mine heart, and I will forgiue thée, and desire all my sisters, & all my friends to forgiue thée, if thou wilt confesse thy fault, but thou hast an hard hart (sayd she) and the Deuill holdeth thy hart and will not suffer thée to confesse it, but thou must confesse it whether thou wilt or no, when thy time is come. But oh that thou wouldest nowe confesse it, that thy soule might bée saued. These wordes when she vsed them (as she did often) she would three times at the least repeate them ouer, with such vehemency, as that it was straunge to heare, for she would neuer leaue vttering of them so long as her breath would serue. Then did she tell her my sister Joanes deuill standeth here before my face, and pointed with her finger to the place, and telleth me that in despight of thée thou shalt one day confesse it, or else thou shalt be hanged, for before thou doest confesse it, or be hanged, we shal not be well: but if thou wouldest euen now confesse it, we shall be presently well, defie now therefore the deuill, and confesse it, that God may forgiue thée, and that thy soule may be saued. If thou wouldest thinke (sayd she) of the torments of hell, and that thy soule must burne in hell fire, except thou doest confesse and repent, then thou wouldest not now stand so stifly in the deniall of it as thou doest: but thou art a wicked childe, and thou hast béene a Witch this foure or fiue yeares & more, thou hast done more hurt thē to me and my sisters, for thou hast killed my Ladie Crumwell and moe. The deuill that standeth here telleth me so, and thou wouldest haue killed my sister Joane in this her sicke wéeke, but God will not let thée, what a wicked hart hast thou that nothing will content thée but our death, thou, and thy father (sayde she) were the cause why thy mother did deny that, which she did once confesse, she was in a good way, and would

neuer haue gone from her wordes, had not you and your father bin, & if your mothers soule be dampned, you & your father must answere for it, with many such like spéeches, for your mother (sayd she) had confessed a truth, and was sorry for her naughtinesse, euery body had forgiuen her, and would haue prayed for her: oh that she had neuer gone home, that her soule might haue béene saued, thy mother is a witch, thy father is a witch, and thou art a witch, but of all the thrée thou art the worst. Thy mother would neuer haue done so much hurt as she hath done, but for thée, and so the deuill hath tolde me, thou wicked childe, thou art a wicked child, the Lord giue thée grace to confesse, and to repent that thy soule may be saued. Oh that thy father were now here, for the deuill now sayth, that I should scratch him also, he is a witch and a naughtie man, Oh that he were here, that he might heare me now speake to him.

Then two of the childes Uncles, M. John Pickering, and M. Henrie Pickering, being there present were intreated of the childes father to sée if they could by any meanes, procure olde Samuell to come to the house, but it was thought by the companie to be a labour lost before they went, the man was of so churlish a nature, and alwayes so hardly drawne to the house: notwithstanding they went, and when they had gone twentie paces from the house, they did perceiue the same man to be cumming alone very fast towardes the house, so they agreed to passe by him in silence, to sée whether he ment to goe, the man went directly to M. Throckmortons house, which they perceiuing, followed him backe againe, and were as readie to goe into the house as he, when they were come into the hall, and were euen at the doore readie to goe into the parlor where the child and the other companie were: the child sayd of her selfe, he is come, he is come, I will goe scratch him, so she prested forwardes on her knées (for she had no vse of her legges) towards the parlor doore as if she would go to him, yet this is most certaine, that she was thē in such a place of the parlor as that she could not sée any part of the hall, and therefore not the man. Then M. Doctor Dorington being in presence, perceiuing the child so to goe on her knées, stayed her, and caused the man to be called into the parlor, when he came in, she still prested to goe towardes him, and

sayd

sayd I must scratch him, I must scratch him, on the suddaine she stopped saying, I must not scratch him, loke you here & shewed her hands how her fingers were shut vp close together, if he had bene here euen now (sayth she) the deuill sayth I should haue scratched him, but now I must not. Then M. Throckmorton the childes Father, demaunded of the man John Samuell, why he came to his house, he answered that one in the field told him that his daughter was sicke and therefore he came. Then Master Throckmorton and M. Doctor Dorington charged him to tell the truth who it was and not to lye, as hee would answere it, he answered that he would not tell them, notwithstanding they vrged him, at length he sayd, that his brothers daughter came to his house and tolde him, that she saw M. Doctor Dorington and M. Throckmortons man come to this house together, and then he thinking that there was some thing to doe about his daughter, came therfore to see the matter, but this was thought of the companie to be no sufficient cause to bring him to the house, whereas before hee could not be gotten to come without a precept from the Justices. The child continued still crying out vpon him & sayde, that he was a naughtie man, and a witch, and but for him & his daughter, his wiues soule might haue bene saued, and therefore hee must answere for it before God one day, and so repeated ouer againe many of her speeches to him, which before she had said to his daughter exhorting him to prayers, and to aske God forgiuenes. The man was so rude in his behauiour, and so lowd in his speeches that the child could not be heard for him: His answeres to the child were, that she lyed, and so did all the companie in saying he was a witch, and he sayd that shee had bene taught her lessons well enough, and that she was aboue seuen yeares olde (though indede she was not twice seuen) with many such like speeches, and would not be silent nor suffer the childe to speake for any thing vntill he was almost forced vnto it by the childes Father, although he might perceiue very well, as also did all the company, that the childe could not heare him, nor answere to any of his speeches, neither yet stayed her wordes at his talking, in any thing she intended to speake to him, although he greatly interrupted the same, if she could haue heard him, but shee neither heard him nor anie

other in the companie, yet she sawe him and his daughter, and not any other. Towardes the end when the child had thus exhorted the father and the daughter for the space of an houre and an halfe, M. Throckmorton the childes father, tolde the man John Samuell, that his daughter Agnes, by a charge which she had, commanded the spirites to depart from his children, & they had departed, hee therefore willed him to vse the same wordes which his daughter before had vsed, to see what would come of it: he saide that he would not, neyther should any make him to speake them, and he would not be brought to it for any thing. Then did Master Throckmorton tell him that seeing hee came to his house vnsent for, he should not depart vntill he had spoken them, so long as the childe continued in her fitte, if it were this weeke before she came forth. Then did M. Doctor Dorington (the rather to bring him on) speake the words before him, so did also two or three of his neighbours, honest men in the towne, that were then present and saw al these matters in the child, but this would not perswade the man, vntill in the end, he perceyued that Master Throckmorton was resolute, not to suffer him to depart vntill he had spoken them, then he begunne to speake them as he was taught by Master Throckmorton, the wordes were these, as I am a Witch, and consenting to the death of the Lady Crumwell, so I charge the spirite to depart from Mistres Elizabeth Throckmorton at this present, and to suffer her to be well, the man had no sooner spoken the words, but the child presently arose, and was very well, marueyling to see such companie there. Then was the child asked if she knewe of any thing which she had done or sayd, and diuerse perticulers were named vnto her, but she knew of no such thing, saying that shee had beene a sleepe, and was readie to weepe because they charged her with such things, so the company departed, and she went to bed being very well.

It now followeth to declare how mistres Joane Throckmorton was handled in this present weeke past, which was that sicke weeke of fittes threatened to her before by the spirit. On Sunday which was the day before, she was lightsome, and had no fit at all, saying that she was very well, yet no body would tell her of the sicke fits which was threatened to befall her the

next day, ſo ſhe went to bede very merrie and chearefull, ſaying that ſhe ayled nothing at all, ſhe thanked God: The nert morning which was Munday, when ſhe awakened there was found a great change in her, for then ſhe complayned of euery parte of her body, ſaying that ſhe was marueilous full of paine, eſpecially in her head and ſtomacke, and that there was ſome thing vnder her ſides, which did ſo twitch and wring her, that ſhe could not fetch her breath. All that day, as likewiſe all that weeke following ſhe was moſt ſtraungly tormented, crying out of extreme payne in all parts of her, her ſtomacke was taken from her, ſo that ſhe eate all that weeke ſcarcely ſo much as might be thought ſufficient to ſuſteine nature, her legges were exceeding ſore, and full of paine, hauing litle or no vſe of them all that weeke, her hands were continually colde, and benummed, but her greateſt and continual paine lay in her head, which cauſed her to take marueilous vnquiet reſt, for ſhe did nothing but cry and grone the moſt part of the nights throughout that weeke neither reſting her ſelfe nor ſuffering any others to reſt, that lay neere her: Now beſides this generall and continuall paine in her body, ſhe had diuers fits euery day, and likewiſe in the night time, ſuch as wherein no man that ſaw her, thought ſhe ſhould haue eſcaped with her life: for ſhe would lye vpon her bed ſtriking and ſuddenly ſtarting an houre togeather, and ſometimes fower or fiue houres without any intermiſſion, otherwhiles ſhee woulde ly as one in a Sowne or Traunce holding her breath a quarter of an houre and ſometimes longer, in ſuch ſorte as that it could neither be felt nor perceiued that ſhe breathed at all for the time, yet in thend ſhe would ariſe vp with her belly and fetch a marueilous deepe ſigh, and a lowd doleful grone as if ſhe had bene gaſping for her laſt breath: And this kinde of fit was moſt vſuall with her night and day, and would hold her the longeſt of any other, and alwaies the longer when any of her freinds or other company ſtode by and comforted her, ſome times it would riſe vp into her head, and their reſting a while, it would rayſe vp her body, and her head very ſtrongly, vntill almoſt ſhe ſtode vpright, yet with ſuch ſtrength, as that it was not poſſible for any man to hold her downe. In which fit ſhe was deſirous to haue her head holden, otherwiſe ſhe ſaid that it

would riue her head in sunder, and alwaies a little before she felt the fit comming, she would say hold, and all the while shée was in rising with her body, it would holde her breath, vntill she came to the highest, and then would she fetch a great grone, and with a sudden downefall, settle her self in the chaire againe, and how soeuer all the wéeke she was in this continuall daunger and had her life in her handes euery houre ready to yéelde it vp, yet on Saturday all the day long, but especially in the night she was in the greatest hazard thereof, for then did her parents, & other that wished well vnto her, thinke that she should neuer haue séene the day light: such and so many were her extreame fits and daungerous perplexities in that night, but it pleased God, a litle before morning to giue her some better rest, and this was some good hope, and comfort that her parents and other her freindes had in respect of the safetie of her life, for that both she her selfe, and other also of her sisters had heretofore saide being in their fits, that Nan Samull would haue had the Deuill to kill her this wéeke, as she hath done the Lady Crumwell but God wil not suffer him. But in all these extremities this is most certaine, that all the wéeke long she had the perfect vse of her sences as the spirit had told her that she should haue, and was able to discerne one thing from an other, and to make answeare to any question that was asked at any time (except then when her breath was stopped and while she continued as one in a sowne,) but being asked afterwards if she then heard, she answered that she did alwaies heare, but she could not sometimes speake, because her breath was stopped. And this was a thing noted in her that wéeke, that she could neuer abide that Nan Samuell should abide in her company, or come into her sight or once to heare her named, yet she would say, that she could not tell for what cause it was, but it should séeme there was some secret matter in it, for whensoeuer, and how long soeuer, shée stayed with her she was alwaies the more strongly delt with all and the more greiuously troubled.

When the sennite was ended, and Munday morning came againe, she said that she felt her selfe reasonable well, and all that day she had no fit at all, onely she said, that she was very sore in her body & in her leggs, as if she had bene beaten with strockes.

All

All this weeke following she continued reasonable well, yet not without many fits and great sorenes in her legges, especially towards night as it was common with them all to be alwaies worst at night.

On Munday after that which was the 19. of March a little before supper she fell into her fit, and when supper was ended Smacke came vnto her againe, to whom she presently said, I trust God will one day reuenge me on you, and all your company, for thus punishing of me and my Sisters: why said he, had you a sicke weeke of it? It is no matter to you said she: why I tolde you said he, that I could not helpe it, except you would haue gone abroad to some friendes house, goe you saide she whether you will, and doe what you can, I will not once stur my foote out of dores for your pleasure, for I know you would kill me if you could, and you vse all the meanes you can both to kill me and my Sisters, but I trust God will not giue you leaue: if he doth I am well contented withall, for I had rather be dead then to liue in this continual paine, and not able to stand or goe: many moe such like speaches they had togeather: anon she saide, you haue often times tolde me, that I should scratch the younge witch, before the Assises, now tell me when shall it be? For I would faine scratch her, I cannot abide her now of late, whatsoeuer the matter is, I thinke God hath set my hart against her, for I cannot eate my meate, if she standeth before me, it so goeth against my stomacke, and yet I cannot tell wherefore, but tell me said she on what day shall I scratch her, he tolde her that she should scratch her two or three daies before the Assises, tell me said she, on which day shall it be? For I will neuer beleeue you, he tolde her that it should bee on Munday before the Assises which was that day fortnight: well said she, I like that it be, for I will keepe my nayles vnpared for her, I will scratch one side for my self said she and the other for mine Aunte Pickering, this her Aunte is wife to M. John Pickering of Ellington in the countie of Huntington, who was one of the twelue, that were bewitched, and hath beene most grieuously tormented with paine and breaking out in her legges, as that she is not able to goe, well saide mistres Ioane to Smacke, I will surely lay it on whensoeuer I scratch her, that all the world may see that

she

ſhe is a witch: Then ſaid Smacke, they that thinke otherwiſe of her are deceiued, and that I will proue: will you proue it? Said ſhe, how will you proue it? By compelling you to ſcratch her: will you compell me? Said ſhe, why then I will not ſcratch her: but you ſhall ſcratch her ſaid he: ſo they had many wordes about it, in thend ſhe ſaide that indéede ſhe had a good will to ſcratch her, but yet ſhe will not ſcratch her if ſhe can otherwiſe chooſe, but Smacke ſaide that ſhe muſt ſcratch her aſwell as all her other Siſters had done and muſt doe, for there are yet two behind that muſt ſcratch her. When they had ended their talke, ſhe called for Agnes Samuell and ſaid that ſhe ſhould not come forth of her fit, vntill ſhe had charged the ſpirit to departe, which the mayde did, and ſhe was preſently well. Within two daies after. Miſtres Grace the youngeſt of all thoſe fiue ſiſters, as ſhe ſat in the maides armes, in a very troubleſome fit, on the ſuddaine fell on ſcratching of the maides hand, merueilous fiercely to ſée, but was not able to ſpeake, her mouth was ſhut vp: yet did ſhe grone and wéepe greatly as if ſhe had bene doing of ſome thing againſt her will, but ſuch was the childes ſhort nayles and want of ſtrength, that ſhe could not once ripple the ſkinne of the backe of her hands. Of this child there are not many things noted, becauſe for the moſt part her mouth was ſhut vp during the time of her fits, yet had ſhe very many moſt greuious and troubleſome fits: for ſhe hath ſit in a chaire, or on a ſtoole by the fire ſide, ſome times a whole day together, groning and wéeping moſt lamentable to ſée, and was neuer cleare from her fits ſince the firſt beginning.

On the nert Sabboth day which was the 25. of March at night when ſupper was ended, Miſtreſſe Joan fell into her fitte, as ſhe had many fits that wéeke, but Smacke neuer came vnto her to talke vntill now: So it ſhould ſéeme that he talked with her a good while before ſhe would eyther ſéeme to liſten, or giue anſwere to him, yet it might eaſily be perceiued by her countenance and geſture that ſome thing talked with her, for ſhe wold turne away her face and ſhake her head, as if ſhe liked not of it: on the ſuddaine ſhe ſayd goe to, if this be true that you ſay, let vs ſée what you will doe. So Miſtreſſe Joan called for her ſiſter Elizabeth who was likewiſe in her fitte, & told her that Smack

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was come, and will now tell her many things, before Dan Da-face: Smacke sayth she calleth her nothing but young Witch to beginne withall, belike he is angry with her: Therefore she called for Dan Samuell, and tolde her that she must be present and heare what Smacke will say to her, yet sayth she I cannot heare you, but I can see you: By and by she sayd Smacke saith that you must say these wordes, and I shall presently come forth of my fitte, but I shall fall into it againe, and shall haue manie fittes to night, and come forth of them againe at your speeches, the words which the maid must first speake were these: As I am a witch, and would haue bewitched Mistris Joan Throckmorton to death in her last weeke of great sickneſſe, so I charge the spirite to depart and to suffer her to be well at this present: So soone as she had uttered them, Mistresse Joan came presently out of her fitte and was well, and being readie to arise she suddenly fell down into her fitte againe, so resting a while she sayd to her, the thing sayth that you must say as I am a witch and haue bewitched Mistres Pickering of Ellington since my mother hath confeſſed, so to charge the spirite to depart from me, and I shall be well, for the thing sayth (sayd she) that mine Aunt Pickering should haue beene well before this time, had not you bewitched her againe since your mother confeſſed. Alas good Aunt Pickering (sayd she) what harme haue you done to any of them that they should vse you in this sort, and with that she fell into bitter weeping for her, in so much that they that stode by could not refraine from teares, when she had done weeping, she willed the mayde to vse that charge, after which vsed she was well, but did not long so continue, for she was straight way in her fit againe: then sayd Mistresse Joan to the mayde, the spirite sayth that you must say, as I would haue bewitched Mistresse Joan Throckmorton lame, since I could not bewitch her to death, as I wold haue done in her last weeke of great sickneſſe, so charge the spirite to depart from me, and I shall be well, and presently fall into my fitte againe, all which was then done, and presently found true: Then sayd Mistresse Joan, the spirite sayth that you haue bewitched all my sisters ouer againe, since your mother confeſſed, or elſe they had beene now well, and to prooue this to be true you must charge the spirite to depart from me as you haue be-

witched them all seuerally, and I must haue so many seuerall fittes, & come out of them at your seuerall charges, so the mayd begunne with them one after the other, saying, as I haue bewitched Mistresse Marie Throckmorton since my mother confessed, so I charge the spirite to depart from you, and after her went to the rest of her sisters: so Mistresse Joan had foure seuerall fittes, and came forth of them at iiij. seuerall charges (concerning the bewitching of her sisters) which the mayde vsed to her. Then sayd Mistres Joan the spirite sayth that now I must also start and struggle, and be payned in my body as well as my sister Jane is, whensoeuer you (speaking to the mayde) shall name God, or Jesus Christ, or any good worke, although I cannot heare you, yet he doth heare you, and he will make me start. Then M. Throckmorton, with others that were then in company, perceiuing the spirite to be willing to declare so many thinges of the mayde, willed her to charge the spirite in the name of God to answere her to certaine questions, which she should aske it and not to lye, the mayde gaue that charge to the spirite the spirite sayd to Mistresse Joan, the young witch (for so he in all this talke and speech, hath called her) chargeth me to tell the truth in certain questions which she shall aske me: I said Mistresse Joane, and see that you doe tell the truth, and not lye in any one thing, the spirite answered that he doth not vse to tell so many lyes, as the young witch doth, which words Mistresse Joane repeated ouer after the spirite. Then sayde M. Throckmorton to the mayd, charge the spirite to tell you in what part of your bodie Mistresse Joan shall scratch you, which the maide did, and the spirite said to Mistres Joan, the young witch would know in what part of her bodie you shall scratch her: Yea sayd Mistresse Joan, in what part of her body shall I scratch her, the spirit answered you shall scratch her on her face, the right cheeke for your self, and the left for your Aunt Pickering of Ellington, then sayd Mistresse Joan, I will surely scratch the left cheeke well for mine Aunt if that will doe her any good, howsoeuer I do for my selfe: yea sayd the spirite do so, and the young witch were as good to take it patiently at the first, for you shall haue your penyworth of her before you haue done: Then the mayd was willed to aske the spirite whether her mother would confesse at

the

the Assises, all that she hath alreadie confessed, the spirite sayde the young witch asketh &c. the answere which the spirite made to this question was, that the old witch would confesse all again at the Assises, if she had no euill counsell, and confesse also that this young witch her daughter, is a worse witch then her selfe, for sayd the spirite to Mistresse Joane (which wordes she did in order repeate after the spirite) when the olde witch had bewitched the Lady Crumwell, and would haue vnwitched her again and could not, she put it to her husband, and badde him help her, and when he could not, he put it to this young witch his daughter, & when she could not helpe her neither, then she councelled her mother to kill her. And to prooue sayth the spirite to Mistres Joan, that all this is true, whensoeuer any straungers come to this house before the Assises, you shall fall into your fitte, and you shall haue three seuerall fittes, and shall come out of them at three seuerall charges by the young witch: the first charge that she must vse is, as she is a witch, and a worser witch then her mother in consenting to the death of the Lady Crumwell, so I charge the spirite to depart, and you shalbe well: the second is as she hath bewitched Mistresse Pickering of Ellington since her mother confessed: and the third is as she would haue bewitched Mistresse Joan Throckmorton to death, in her last weeke of great sickneese, after which you shall be well: So the mayde vsed those three seuerall charges to Mistresse Joan at that time, and she came forth of three seuerall fittes, and presently fell into her fitte againe. Then the mayde was willed to aske the spirite whether Mistresse Joan should haue these fits before the Lord Judge, if she were carryed to the Assises: the spirite sayde to Mistresse Joan, the young witch would know &c. yea sayd Mistres Joan, whether shal I haue my fits before the Lord Judge or not: the spirite answered that she should haue her fittes vpon the Assises day before the Judges, and all the fittes that euer she hath had heretofore, then was the mayd willed to aske whether Mistresse Joane should haue any moe fittes after the Assises, the spirite answered to Mistres Joan in the same sort which he vsed before that she should neuer haue any fittes after the assises, and that neither this young witch, nor her mother, nor any kinne of them all should be able to hurt her after the Assises

day. Then the mayde was willed to aske the same question for her sisters how they should doe after the Assises, the spirite sayd that he would not answere to that question, saying that her sister Janes spirite should declare that thing, then the mayd was willed to aske the spirite how many spirites her mother had at the first, and the names of them all severally, & which euery one of the children had at that time troubling of them, The spirite (repeating ouer the maydes wordes vnto Mistresse Ioane) answered directly, that the olde woman had nine spirites, and shée had them of a strange man, who was now dead, and his name he will not tell: The names of the spirites were these, for after Mistresse Ioane vnderstode the question, then she followed it, demanding her selfe of the spirite what she thought good: The names of the spirites were these: There was thrée which were called by the name of Smackes, the 4. Plucke, the 5. Blew, the 6. Catch, the 7. White, the 8. Callico, the 9. Hardname. Mistres Ioane Throckmorton had himselfe, who was the first of the Smackes, Mistresse Mary had his cozen Smacke, mistresse Elizabeth had his other cozen Smack, mistres Jane had Blew, Mistres Grace had White, and the old woman had Hardname still with her in the Jayle, and what was become of the rest he could not tell: Then the mayde was willed to aske whether the old woman did reward them with any thing or not, the spirite answered that she did reward them euery day with bloud from her chinne, saying farther that her chinne did once bléede of it selfe to proue her a witch, when she desired God to shewe some signe thereof: Then Mistresse Ioane of her selfe asked the spirite whether the man John Samuell was a Witch or not: The spirite answered that he was a Witch & would be a worse then eyther this young witch is, or the olde witch her mother was, when they two are hanged, for then all the spirites will come to him, and he will doe more hurt then any haue yet done, for saith the spirite, he hath alreadie bewitched a man and a woman, and to proue this, if the young witch shall charge the deuill to depart from you at this present, euen as her father hath bewitched two parties, you shall be presently well, so Nan Samuell did, and mistresse Ioane was well, and fell into her fitte againe: then mistresse Ioane asked the spirite, who those two

were

were that the man had be witched: The spirite answered that he would not tell, except the young witch went out of the parlor for she must not be here, so mistresse Ioane willed Dan Samuell to goe out of the parlor, and the spirite sayd, let her be watched that she doe not heare when she was gone. The spirite told Mistresse Ioan that it was Chappell and his wife, which two parties were the old mans next neighbours, and were at some variance and contention with him, and did greatly suspect themselues of such a matter, for they were both of them a little before that time marueilously troubled with bleach, the woman not able to stirre her selfe, and the man was for a fitte or two in the same case that these children were in, yet sayd the thing if Chappell will beate the olde witch well, he may peraduenture neuer be more troubled with him. The old witch sayd the spirite would once haue broken his necke by giuing him a fall vpon the cause in the streete as he met him, for he caused on the suddaine both his Pattins to be broken, and if he had fallen on the stones as he fell in the myre, he had beene maymed: this last point of Chappels fall was not knowne to any in the house at that time, and Mistres Ioane being asked of the same when she came forth of her fit sayd that she neuer heard of any such thing: but when it was inquired of Chappell, he confessed that he had once such a fall, as he met with old Samuell in the streetes, and both his Pattins were broken at one instant, and because he would not fall vpon the cause on the stones, he cast himselfe in the faulling besides the cause (for it was but narrow) into the myre, wherin he was marueilously foyled, and if an other neighbor had not beene with him, he had beene in greater danger.

This tale was tolde by the spirite to mistres Ioane, and mistres Ioane by repeating the spirites wordes declared to them that stode by, then the mayd was called into the parlor againe, and willed to aske the spirite, whether Mistres Ioan should be well in the way that she went to the Assises or not, and whether she should be better at the Assises then at home: The spirite answered that she should be better there then at home, but it shold be worse for the young witch if mistresse Ioan went, and shee should be well all the way shee went vntill shee had taken her chamber, and then she should fall into her fit: how true all this

fell out, you shall heare hereafter, the spirite told her then again, that she should haue three seuerall fittes vpon the Assises day, & the young witch must bring her out of them, by three seuerall charges: The first must be as she is a worser witch then her mother in bewitching the Ladye Crumwell to death, the second as she hath bewitched Mistresse Pickering of Ellington since her mother confessed, and the third as she would haue bewitched mistres Joan Throckmorton to death in her last weeke of great sickneſſe: And the spirite sayd all this is true, and shall be proued true hereafter, and in token thereof you (speaking to Mistresse Joane) shall be very well all the day to morrow, and haue neuer a fitte let the young witch doe what she can, except some stranger come, and then you must haue three seuerall fittes to proue her a witch, and so you shall haue them whensoeuer any strangers come: but this sayth the thing of himselfe (speaking to Mistres Joan) you must remember in any case to pare your nayles when you haue scratched the young witch: why must I doe so sayd she? because sayd he, the young witches blood will sticke on your nayles, and you must burne her blood, least you be worse afterwardes, why sayde mistresse Joane, put you me in mind of it if I chaunce to forget it? so I will sayd he: then the spirite departed and mistresse Joane sayde that she must not come forth of her fit, except Nan Samuell helpe her out by one of her charges, which she did, and then she went to bed being very well, and the next day continued without any fits at all, neither came there any strangers to the house. On tuesday following there came M. Doctor Dorington, and with him one of his brothers M. John Dorington a Londiner, presently after their comming into the house mistres Joan fell into her fit. Then did they call for the mayde Nan Samuell, and one of the companie willed her to say the Lordes prayer, and her beliefe, which shee did, and whensoeuer she named God, or Jesus Christ, or the holy Ghost, mistres Joane did marueilously start and struggle at it, so that she could scarcely sitte vpon her stole: and in thend the mayd brought her out of her fitte three seuerall times, by her three seuerall charges as the spirite before had sayd.

The next straungers that came to the house were M. Henry Crumwell one S. Henry Crumwell sonnes, and with him one

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of S. Henry his men, and this was vpon Thursday following being the 29. of March, when they came into the house Mistres Ioane was well, but they had not stayed there a quarter of an houer but she fell into her fit, and was very shrewdly handled before them as was also her sister Jane, whensoeuer the maide named God, or Christ Iesus, and in the end, she was brought out of her fit, three seuerall times, by three seuerall charges as before, many strangers in that weeke came to the house, and she had these seuerall fits as you shall heare on Munday following which was the day appointed for scratching. Mistres Ioan fel in to her fit, a little before supper, and so continued all supper time, not being able to stand on her legges, so soone as thanksgiuing after supper was beginning to be said, she start vp vpon her feete and came to the table side, and stode with her sisters that were saying of grace, and presently when grace was ended she fell vpon the maide Nan Samuell, and toke her head vnder her armes and first scratched the right side of her cheeke, and when she had done that now saide she, I must scratch the left side for mine Aunte Pickering, and scratch that also vntil bloud came forth of both sides very abundantly, the maide stode stone still, and neuer once moued to goe from her, yet cried very pittifully, desiring the Lord to be mercyfull vnto her, when she had doone scratching, Mistres Ioane set her selfe vpon a stole, and fared as though she had bene out of breath, for she toke her winde meruelous thicke, yet the maide neuer strugled with her, and was able to hold neuer a ioynte of her, but trembled as it had bene a leafe, and called for a paire of sheeres, to paire her nayles but when she had them, she was not able to hold them, in her hands, so she desired some body to doe it for her, then M. Doct. Dorringtons wife who was her Aunt, standing by her toke the sheeres, and payred her nayles but Mistres Ioane her selfe saued the nayles as her fingers were paired and when she had done threw the minto the fire, and called for some water to wash her handes, which after she had done, she threw the water also into the fire: when this was done this Mistres Ioane fell vpon her knees, and willed the maid to come and kneele down by her, and to pray with her, they said the Lords prayer togeather and likewise the Creede, but it should seeme, that Mistres Ioane

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could not heare the maid for she would say amisse many times, and then the company would helpe her out, but Mistres Ioane did not stay for her, so that she had ended her prayers, before the the maide had halfe done hers: After this M. D. Dorington tooke a prayer booke, & read certaine prayers which he thought good, and when he had done, then mistres Ioane fell to exhorting of the maide and gaue her many good exhortations, and as she was thus in speaking to her fell into a merueilous weeping & sobbed so greatly, that she could not well vtter her wordes, saying that she would not haue scratched her, but ỹ she was forced vnto it by the spirite as she was thus complayning on the sudden mistres Elizabeth Throckmorton one of her younger sisters being suddenly taken in her fit (for it was not knowen to any in the companie) came hastely vpon the maide, and catched her by one of her handes, and faine would haue scratched her, saying that the spirit saith, that she must also scratch her, but the companie willed the maide to keepe her hand from her, which she did, so they stroue togeather a great while, vntill the child was windlesse: Then said the childe will no body helpe me, repeating the words twise or thrise, then said her sister mistres Ioane, being still in her fit, shall I helpe you sister Elizabeth: I said she for God sake good sister. So mistres Ioane came, and tooke one of the maides hands, and held it to her sister, Elizabeth, and shee scratched it vntill bloud came, and seemed to be merueilous ioyfull that she had gotten bloud, she pared her nayles also, and washed her hands and threw all into the fire: After al this before the cõpanie departed, the maide helped mistres Ioane, out of her fitte three seuerall times one after the other, by three seuerall charges as you haue heard before: And likewise brought mistres Elizabeth Throckmorton out of her fitte by saying as she hath bewitched mistres Elizabeth Throckmorton since her mother confessed.

We will now leaue mistres Ioane vnto the Assises day, & retire a litle backe againe to mistres Jane, who is the youngest of M. Throckmortons children saue one, and hath druncke as deepe of this cup of affliction as any of all her sisters hath done, and as she first talked of it, so she was the first that disliked, and disclosed the author of it, for she it was that first cried out of mo-

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ther Samuell, and said that it was she that had bewitched her, before either her parents or any other that came towards her, suspected any witcherie at al, since which time as there hath bene great cause to thinke, that whereas she was the first that gaue occasion to suspect the old woman, and indéede did her selfe openly accuse her, so she hath bene therefore amongst all the rest, the most extreamely delt withall: for there was neuer any of her sisters, (mistres Ioane excepted) ỹ did abide such heauie brunts, such daungerous and mortall temptations, as she hath done, for she hath bene often and diuers times tempted to cast her selfe into the fire, and into the water, and to depriue her selfe of life by cutting her throate with her owne knife. And these things haue thus appeared in her, namely, that she hath many times in her fitts, suddenly pulled the knife out of her sheath, and if shee hath bene abroade, she hath throwne it from her so far as she coulde: if within the house sitting at the table or in any other place, shee hath throwne it vnder the table or in some corner of the house, saying that the spirit doth now tempt her to kill her selfe, but she will not, desiring the Lord to strengthen her against them, and when she hath come out of her fit, she hath acknowledged no such matter, marueiling who hath taken her knife from her, and for the daunger of fire, this thing hath also bene proued many times in her: for she hath preased forwards, and strained her selfe to thrust her head into the fire, and hath bene permitted to come so neere the fire with her head and face, that resting onely vpon the strength of one that did withhold her, had she bene let goe, she had fallen flat into the fire, to her vtter danger of perishing therin, and the same experience in her, hath as often bene made by water, saying alwaies that the Deuill doth tempt her to both: yet this hath bene obserued continually in all these temptations that she was neuer tempted to any of these daungers, (that euer was knowne) being alone, but alwaies when there were some company and assistance by to helpe her: which thing thus considered, whether it hath proceéded of the gracious prouidence and goodnesse of God, which cannot be denied but that it hath shewed it selfe most straunge and most wonderfull, both in the preseruation of her, as also in the rest of her sisters in these their troublesome extremities, or whether it hath bene some secret illusiõ, and

mockery of the Deuill to deceiue the standers by, it resteth doubtfull, and cannot be determined amongst men, but whether one or the other, or whatsoeuer, God deserueth the glory.

Upon Friday which was the 15. of march 1592. This mistres Jane was very much troubled, with her fit, sitting at the table in dinner time, as she had bene for a fortnight or three weekes before that, more extreamely vsed at meales, then at any other time of the day, for alwaies a little before she should sit downe either in giuing of thanks, or presently after her fit would surely take her. On this day as she sat at dinner, she seemed that some thing that sat vpon the table, talked vnto her about Nan Samuell, for she would listen a while vnto it, and then looke backe with an heauie countenaunce vnto the maide, that stode behinde her, shaking her head as if some sorrow were towards. Now this mistres Jane had bene often tolde, by her other sisters being in their fittes, that the spirit had tolde them, that she should also scratch Nan Samuell before the next Assises, happen when it should, but she would alwaies make this answere to them, that she would not scratch her, let the Deuill doe what he could against her, albeit the spirit had tolde so much to her selfe as shee had oftentimes saide, but she alwaies withstode the spirit in wordes to his face, saying that she would not doe it: on this night as she sat at supper with the rest of her sisters, she fell into a very extreame fit, bowing and bending of her body, as if shee would haue broken her backe, shaking of her hands, as that she could not hold her knife steedfast: many times, it would thrust it against her arme. When this fit was ended then the spirit seemed to talke to her againe, as it did at dinner, for she vsed the same manner of gesture to Agnes Samuell that stode behinde her as before, and gaue rather greater signes of sorrow then otherwise. On the suddaine she arose from the table, and went to the vpper end thereof calling, a marueilous heauie, and discontented looke to the maide, whereby it was perceiued that the child had something in her mind that she could not vtter (for her mouth was shut vp which did greatly dislike her) then the maid was willed to aske her how she did, the childs mouth was presently opened and she made answere to her worse for you, you young witch turning away her face from her, as if she loathed

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to lok on her. This was newes to the maide to be called young witch at her hand, so she continued questioning with her, as she was willed, but the child turned away her face, and stopped her eare which was next vnto her, saying that she could not abide to heare her or see her, then the maide was willed to aske her what the matter was the child answered that the spirit saith that she must scratch her, when must you scratch me saith the maide, presently the childes mouth was shut vp that shee could make no answere. Then did the child begin to weepe, most lamentable to see, yet so mixed with anger towards the maide, as that often times loking vpon her, she would suddenly turne away her face from her, with such an yerning voice, her teeth being set togeather as if the euill spirit had bene whetting and kindling her furie against the maide: cõtinuing thus a quarter of an howre the maide was moued to aske againe, whē she should scratch her, the childe answered by signes, for she could heare her, but not speake holding vp her finger at (I) and holding it downe at (no) so that it easily might be gathered, that she should scratch her presently after supper so soone as grace was said, then the maide asked in what part she should scratch her, she answered by signe, that it should be vpon her right hand, which was the contrary hand to that, which her sister Elizabeth had scratched a weeke before: then M. Throckmorton the childes father caused M. D. Darrington, and some other neighbours in the towne to be sent for, to whom when they were come he declared what the child had vttered concerning the maide: In this time before they were come togeather, there was halfe an howre spent, all which time the child continued marueilous pensiue, and heauie, weeping very p[illegible]ally, yet often fiercely starting out of the place where she sat, towards the maide, as if she would haue fallen vpon her before the time, so one of the children being in her sit gaue thankes, which so soone as euer it was ended, the childe sincking downe vpon her knees (for shee could not stand) fell vpon the maide with such feirceneſſe, & rage as if she would haue pulled the flesh of her hand from the bones, yet was she scarcely able to race ỹ skin, saying to the maide that the spirit that standeth thereby her telleth her, that pluck holdeth her hart & her hand (meaning the maides) and will not suffer the bloud to come. When the child was weary with scratching, she

breathed & said that she must haue an other fit at her: Then M. Dorington moued the people to pray with him, all which time she kneeled very quietly, but when prayers were ended she presently fel to worke againe vpon the maide as before, saying these words to her, with teares trickling downe her cheeks, I would not scratch you, but the spirit compelleth me, saying that I must scratch you, as well as my other sisters haue done, & as my sister Ioan also must doe before the Assises, for this was (if the time be marked) almost three weekes before the Assises.

The maid at the first scratching, seemed to go some thing from her, but the child followed still vpon her knees, saying to her that she were as good to take it now, as at an other time, for she must fetch bloud on her, & she must haue her penyworthes of her, saying farther, ý she knew, that she did now cry, (which indeed she did) but she could not heare her (for so much the spirit tolde her before) because she should not pittie her, when the child was weary and vnable she left scratching, & wiped that little bloud and water togeather, which came from the maides hand vpon her owne hands: Then M. Dorington began to instruct the maide, and to exhort her with many good speaches, saying that God would surely not suffer her to be thus cryed out vpon by these wicked spirites, and afflicted in this sorte by these innocent children contrary to their willes, if shee were not consenting, or at the least concealing, and of some knowledge of these wicked practises, which her mother had confessed. The maide very stifly denied all that could be said, & desired God to shew some present token vpon her, that they all might know that shee was giltie of these matters: Presently after these words, her nose began to bleede, and she bled verie much, which thing whether it were a signe of Gods sending at that time, in token of her giltinesse or not, that he knoweth onely: and man (I thinke) may without offence greatly suspecte. Yet this shee could say being charged with all, that she had bled sower times that day before, which thing was very true, bleeding very much euery time, alwayes saying that she had not bled so much to her remembrance in seauen yeares before, wishing that this often bleeding would foreshew no euill towards her: In thend the child said, of her selfe, that the thing which now standeth by her

doth

doth tell her, that she must not come forth of her fitte, vntill the old man John Samuell the maydes father, shall come and pronounce certaine words to her which she must tell him: then was she asked by the maid & others that stood by, what those wordes shold be, but the child could not heare any body: by & by she sayd of her selfe, what is her father come into this reckoning now? & shal I neuer come forth of my fit, vntil he speake these words, euen as he is a witch & consented to the death of the La. Crumwell, so to charge the spirit to depart frō me, & then I shalbe well & not before? I did thinke euen so, said she, that he was as bad as the worst, he loked so ilfauouredly: then M. Throckmorton hearing those words of his daughter, desired M. Henry Pickering the childes vncle, & two other of the neighbors, to goe see if they could procure him to come, but he refused to come, so the company for that night departed, & the child went to bed in her fit, & so continued vntill the Assises day, as hereafter you shall heare, her father yet not ceasing to send for the man euery day, and to go to him himselfe, yet could by no means procure him to come to his house. On sunday following, which was the xviij. of March in the morning, the spirit came againe vnto her, then said the child, the thing saith that I should now both heare & see ỹ young witch if she were here (for so ỹ spirits alwaies called her) & see the thing also which I neuer did before, all of thē together, then was the maid called for, & asked the child what the thing saith vnto her, she answered that the thing telleth her, that now she must start aswel as her sister Joan doth whensoeuer she nameth God that she must not come forth of her fitte, this weeke nor the next, and peraduenture neuer, vntil one of these three things come to passe, which are, either your father (speaking vnto ỹ maid) must come & speak these words to me, cuē as he is a witch, & hath consented to the death of the La. Crumwell: or you must confesse that you are a witch, & haue bewitched me & my sisters: or els you must be hanged: then the maid was willed to aske the child whether she should come forth of her fitte, whensoeuer or wheresoeuer her father did speake these words to her: then the child asked the spirit, and the spirite answered, that she should, and so for that time the thing departed & she continued in her fit, the maner wherof was as followeth, she would sitte sometimes in the house all the day

together, as one in a melancholike passion, not speaking to any body, nor desirous of any cõpany, sometimes againe she is very lightsome & merry, and will sport & play with her sisters a great part of the day, yet not hearing nor seeing any body, neither speaking to any particularly, when any passeth by her, she will say yonder goeth such a coloured gowne, I meruaile how it goeth alone: yonder is a paire of nether stocks of such a colour, or yonder is a hat, a paire of shoes or a cloke, but I can see nothing els. If one had shewed her their hand with a ring on their finger, she would say yonder is a ring hangeth in the aire, I maruaile how it hangeth and no body hold it: many will thinke these matters incredible, but assuredly they are most true. This thing also was many times proued while those kind of fits continued vpon her, that sitting at dinner or supp, she shold suddenly haue her mouth shut, and if Agnes Samuell had then come, & held a knife to her mouth, & put it betwixt her lips, her mouth should haue bin presently opened, & not before, & thus the spirite hath delt with her 5. or 6. times in a dinner while, & in this fitt she continued three weekes wanting one day, for so long it toke her before thassises.

To come therfore now to the Assises day last past on wednesday the 4. of April, Mrs. Joan went to Huntingtõ, & as she wẽt vpon the way was very well, as she was also all the morning & so continued vntill within halfe an houre after shee had taken her chamber in the Inne: & then suddenly as she sate by the ãre she fel into her fit, & hauing continued so a litle space, there came diuers vp into the chãber to see her, who perceiuing that she sate so quietly, would not be perswaded of any thing to be a misse in her: many of them toke her by the hand, & spake to her as they thought good, but shee neither heard nor perceiued any thing at all: Thẽ some of the cõpany turned thẽ to the mayd Agnes Samuell, who stood by her & came that morning with Mr. Joan frõ Warboys, & enquiring of her concerning her faith & seruice of God, she answered that she serued God as other people did, whẽ she named God Mrs. Joan began to start and struggle with her armes, as if all had not beene wel, which the cõpany perceiuing, brought her somthing neerer, & willed her to say ỹ Lords prayer and her beliefe, which the maid began to do, but before she went halfe through, the company desired her for cõpassion sake to stay

her

her prayers: for the Gentlewoman Mrs Joan was so grieuously tormented in her body as that it set them all in a maze that saw it, and were resolued of that whereof before they stood doubtfull, namely that Mistres Joane was not in perfect estate: So the company continued their speech to the mayd, & euer as by occasion she named God or Jesus Christ, mistres Joane started and strugled with her selfe, sheuering & shaking of her armes & sholders in that manner, as that euery body perceiued easily that it was not possible for any so to doe of themselues, yea and many times when no body noted the name of God to be vttered by the mayd, yet would mistres Joan put them in mind thereof by her strugling. And if the mayd chanced to double the name of God in her mouth, as to say the God of heauen and earth, or Jesus Christ the sonne of God, it would not suffer her to sit vpon her stole: But when she desired the God of heauen & earth to helpe her, or Jesus Christ the sonne of God to be merciful to her, why then it would so strangely torment her, as that they that saw it could not tel whether they should more wonder to see the sight, then lament and pittie the Gentlewomans case, then a Gentleman in the company (well acquainted with those maners) willed the mayd to say to mistres Joan, my God helpe you, or my God preserue & deliuer you, or the God whō I serue defend you and be merciful vnto you, which she did, but mistres Joan neuer once moued therat, but when she was willed againe to say Jesus Christ deliuer you, or the God of heauen & earth helpe you, then would she so struggle & grone, as that al the chamber sounded withall. And this was prooued an hundred times that day, before fiue hundred men at seuerall times, and in the same euening after the Court was broken vp, M. Iustice Fenner, who for that time was Judge alone, had a desire to see mistres Joan Throckmorton, then being at the signe of the crowne in Hunt. being the place where the sayd Judge then lodged, & went into the garden to the said mistres Joan, then being in the company with other women, there the Judge with a great assembly of Iustices & gentlemē met the said Mistr. Joan Throck. in a faire Alley, being at that present out of her fit, & perfectly well, & after some speeches made by the said Judge to mistres Joan, she fel into one of her ordinarie fits, her eyes closed vp, shaking her shoulders

ders & her armes stretched out right, ready to fall to the ground, but that she was assisted by her father, & not being able to stand, she was led into an arbor, whether also went both the Judge, & the other cõpany, there they saw the said Mrs. Joan grieuously tormẽted most pittiful to behold, many good prayers were made both by the Judge & all the cõpany, but no ease appeared: thẽ the father of the said Mr. Joan told the Judge that there was one in the company (naming Agnes Sam.) that if she would say certain words in the maner of a charge, ỹ then the said mistr. Joan shalbe presently well, a thing desired of all the company, therfore the Judge caused the said Agnes Sam. to stand forward, and to know the charge, which was repeated by M. Throck. father of the said mistr. Joane, the words were these: As I am a witch, & a worse witch then my mother, & did consent to the death of the La. Crumwell, so I charge the deuil to let mistr. Joan Throck. come out of her fit at this present. But before Agnes Sam. spoke the charge to make some triall in others of the effect thereof, the Judge himself, D. Dorington, M. Throckm̃ & others spake the words of the charge, but the said mistres Joan had small ease by their speeches, neither would she come out of her fit, thẽ both the Judge & the other cõpany made many good prayers & petitions to God, but no amendment appeared, after this Agnes Sam. was cõmanded by the Judge to make some good praiers to God for the ease of the sayd mistr. Joan, which she did, at which time if the said Agnes Sam. had prayed to God or Jesus Christ, then the said mistres Joan was in shew more troubled then before, & the reason was foretold by the said mistres Joan, & all her other sisters by the spirite, that whensoeuer the said Agnes did vse the name of God or Jesus Christ, they shold be worse troubled then whẽ any other spake ỹ words, for he that is perfect God almighty wil not suffer his name to be vsed in the mouth of such a wicked creatures, which was then proued true, then Agnes Sam. was cõmanded to say as I am no witch, neither did cõsent to the death of the La. Crũwell, so I charge the deuil to let mrs. Joan come out of her fit at this present, but all this was to no purpose: lastly the sayde Agnes Sam. was commanded to say the right charge, which was as I am a witch, & a worse witch then my mother, and did consent to the death of the La. Crumwell, so I

charge

charge the diuel to let Mistres Ioan Throkmorton come out of her fit at this present. These words were no sooner spoken by the said Agnes Samuel, but the said Mistres Ioan Thorkmorton wyped her eies and came out of her fit, & made low reuerence to the Iudge, and so shee remained about halfe a quarter of an houre, and then shee fell into another kinde of fitt, first shaking one legg & after the other, then one arme & after the other, & then her head & shoulders, with other extraordinarie passions, to the greate gricke of them that were present: but the Iudge greatly lamenting the case. When both he and many others had made some good prayers (and finding no ease) caused the said Agnes Samuell to repeat another charme, vz. As I am a Witch & would haue bewitched to death Mistres Iorn Throkmorton in her last weeke of her great sicknes, so I charge the Diuel to let Mistres Ioan come out of her fit at this present: which words being saide by the said Agnes Samuell, the said Mistres Ioan was presently well. Then the Iudge asked her where shee had beene: Shee answered, I haue beene a sleepe. I pray God, said the Iudge, send you no more such sleepes. Soone after, shee fell into one of her other ordinarie fittes, with a most strange & terrible kind of neesing, and other passions, the which was so vehement & pittifull to be heard, that it moued all the companie at one instant, to pray to God to saue her, fearing that her head would haue burst in sunder, or her eies start out of the same, so that the Iudge made small delay, but caused the said Agnes Samuel to speak the other charme, which was, As I am a Witch, and did bewitch Mistres Pickering of Ellington, since my mothers confession: so I charge the Diuel, to let Mistres Ioan come out of her fit at this present: which words being spoken, presently the said Mistres Ioan was well as euer shee was in her life, & so hath continued without any grife or fittes till this day. The Lord be thanked therefore.

The next day being Thursday in the morning, there were three seuerall Inditements made, and deliuered to the great Inquest, whereof the one was against olde father Samuell, old mother Samull, and Agnes their daughter, for bewitching vnto death the Ladye Cromwell, late wife of Sir Henry Cromwell of Finchingbrook in the countie of Huntington Knight, contrary to Gods Lawes & the statute made in the v. peare of the Queenes Maiesties reigne that now is &c. The other two Inditements were framed vpon the said statute for be-

 witching

witching of Mistres Ioan Throckmorton, Mistres Iane Throkmorton & others, contrary to the said statute. The Inditements being deliuered to the graund Iury, the euidence was giuen them priuately, by Maister Dorington Doctor of Diuinitie, and Parson of the towne of Warboyes aforesaide, by Gilbert Pickering of Tichemersh in the Countie of Northampton Esquire, by Robert Throckmorton Esquire, father of the said children, by Robert Throckmorton of Brampton in the saide Countie of Huntington Esquire, by Iohn Pickering and Henry Pickering gentlemen, & by Thomas Nuet Maister of Art, and Vicar of Ellington. The graund Iury made no great delay, but found them all guiltie. And about eyght of the clocke, the euidence by the forenamed gent. was openly at large deliuered in the Court, to the Iury of life and death: & with great patience of the Iudge, it was continued til one of the clock in the after noone. So many of these proofes, presumptions, circumstances, & reasons contepned in this booke, was at large deliuered, as that time would affoorde, which was fiue houres, without intermission or interuption, vntill both the Iudge, Iustices, and Iury saide openly that the cause was most apparant: their consciences were wel satisfied, that the saide Witches were guilty, & had deserued death: and therewithal the gent. ceased to giue any further euidence. And this as no small thing is to be remembred, that Mistres Iane Throckmorton on Friday the xvi. of March last past being in one of her accustomed fittes, saide that the spirit told her, shee should neuer come out of her fitt, vntill old father Samuell had saide these woordes: As I am a Witche, & consented to the death of the Lady Cromwell, so I charge the deuill, to suffer Mistres Iane to come out of her fit. And this she published openly in the hearing of many: therfore her father sought meanes, both by himselfe and others, to haue Iohn Samuell come to his house to the child, but they could not preuaile: wherefore the saide Iane continued in hir senceles fitts with many panges and vexations in euery parte, as they are before described, from the saide xvi. of March, til the fourth of Aprill, which was three weekes wanting a day: which day also the said Mistres Iane was brought to Huntington, and there in her fit, was set in the Court before the Iudge, where many questions were demaunded of her, but she aunswered to none, for the diuell would not suffer hir to speake: her eyes were open, yet such a mist was before them, that she neither knewe, neither did see hir

father

father, which was next her, and diuers of hir vncles and freinds. Then the Iudge caused olde Samuell to be brought from amongst the other prisoners to the vpper barr: nere vnto the place where the clarks sate: where also stoode the saide Iane. (And the Iudge being before tolde, that if old Samuell would speake the woordes before recited, the saide Iane should be wel.) The Iudge therfore asked him, whether he by any meanes could cause the said Iane to come forth of her fitte, who denied the same. Then the Iudge saide, as he was informed, that he the saide Samuel had a charme made of certein woords, which if he would speake them, the childe should be wel: therefore the Iudge receyued the charme, and willed him to speake the woordes, but he refused the same and saide, I will not speake them. The Iudge persuaded him, and intreated him, insomuch that the saide Iudge, the rather to incourage the saide Samuel, spake himself openly the charme, so did also master Doctor Dorington, and others then present (by the Iudges apoyntment:) yet he refused the same. Many good and holy prayers were openly made to God both by the Iudge and others, for the ease of the childe: whereat the childe seemed nothing to be moued. Then the Iudge willed Samuel to pray vnto God for the comfort of the Childe, which he did, but when he named God or Iesus Christ, the childes heade, shoulders, & armes were sore shaken, and in shewe more troubled then before. Then the Iudge said, þ if he would not speake the woords of the charme, the court would hold him guiltie of the crimes whereof he was accused: & so at the length, with much ado, the saide Samuell (with a loude voyce) said in the hearing of al that were present: As I am a Witch, and did consent to the death of the Lady Cromwell, so I charge the deuil to suffer Mistres Iane to come out of her fitt at this present.

Which woords, being no sooner spoken by the old Witch, but the said Mistres Iane, as her accustomed order was, wiped her eyes, and came out of hir fitt: and then seeing her father, kneeled downe, and asked him blessing, and made reuerence to her vncles that stood nere her: which before shee toke no shewe of knowledge: and wondering said: O Lord, father where am I? For that as it seemed shee neither saw nor heard before, nor knew how she was brought into such a presence. Then the Iudge saide: you see all, she is now well: but not with the musike of Dauids harpe, alluding to the place of Scripture, where King Saule being vexed by an euell spirit receiued comfort and helpe when Dauid

playd on his harpe before him. Then the confession of old mother Samuel (before specified) made the 26. day of December 1592 last past at Burkden, before the reuerent father in God William Bishop of Lincolne, was openly redd: So also was redd the confession of the saide mother Samuell made at Burkden afore saide the 29 day of December 1592 before the saide reuerend father in God William Bishop of Lincolne, Fraunces Cromwel, & Richard Tryce Esquires, Justices of her Maiesties peace within the countie of Huntington, which also is before specified. After these confessions redd, and deliuered to the Jury, it pleased God for the further proofe & ouerthrowe of these wicked persons to reare vp moe witnesses at that time vnexpected, who spake som things of their owne knowledge, and some of reporte: the first was Robert Poulter vicar & Curat of Brampton afore said, who said openly that one of his parishioners called Iohn Langley, at that instant being very sicke in his bed, had tolde him, that one day he being at Huntington at the signe of the crowne, did (in the hearing of old mother Samuell) forbid Master Knowles of Brampton aforesaid, to giue her any meate, for that shee was an old Witche: and thereupon in the afternoone, as he went from Huntington to Brampton, hauing a good horse vnder him, he presently died in the feilde: and within two dayes after, by the prouidence of God, he did escape death, twice or thrice very daungerously: and though it pleased God, not to suffer the deuill to haue the maistry of his body at that time, yet presently after, he lost as many good and sound Cattell to all mennes iudgements, as were worth twentie markes: himselfe, not long after, in bodie extraordinarily handled. And the same night of the day of Assises, as after it proued true, the same Iohn Langley died. Also the forenamed Master Robert Throckmorton of Brampton, (which before had giuen some euidence against the saide Witches in the childrens behalfe,) now he spake for him selfe, that he likewise at Huntington and in other places hauing dealt verie roughly in speeches with the saide mother Samuell: On Fryday the tenth day following, had one of his two peereolde beastes dyed: and on Sunday next after another beast of the same companie and like age died also. The next weeke after on Fryday, he had a yereling Calfe died, and the next Sunday following, he had an other calfe of the same company & like age died also. The next weeke after, on Fryday he had an Hogg died, and the next Sunday after, he had

had a Sow hauing tenne Pigges ſucking on her died alſo. Where-
upon aduice was giuen him, that whatſoeuer thing next died, to make
a hole in the ground, and burne the ſame. Likewiſe the fourth weeke
on Fryday he had a verie faire Cowe worth foure markes died, & his
ſeruants made a hole in the ground and buried the ſame Cowe in it, &
threw faggots and fire on her, & burnt her: and after that, all his cat-
tell did well. Of this laſt matter, mother Samuel being examined the
night before her execution, ſhee confeſſed the bewitching of the ſaide
Cattel, in manner and forme as is declared.

Then the Jaylor of Huntingtongaue this euidence, That a man
of his finding mother Samuell verie vnruly whileſt ſhe was priſoner,
at a time chayned her to a bed-poſt: wherefore, not long after, his man
fell ſicke, and in all reſpectes was handled as the forenamed children
were, with heauing vp & down of his bodie, ſhaking his armes, leggs,
& head, hauing more ſtrength in him in his fittes, than any two men
had, crying out of mother Samuell, ſaying that ſhe did bewitch him:
and thus remaining in this extraordinary courſe of ſickneſſe, about fiue
or ſixe daies after died.

The ſaid Jaylor ſaide alſo, that not long after the death of his ſer-
uaunt, he had one of his ſonnes fell ſicke, and was for the moſt parte
handled as his ſeruaunt before named was: ſo that it was moſt appa-
rant that he was bewitched: therefore the ſaide Jaylor went into the
Priſon, and brought mother Samuell to his ſonnes bed-ſide, and there
held her, vntill his ſonne had ſcratched her, and ſo preſently his ſonne
amended. And to drawe to ſome ende, the Jury of life and death, in
the after noone, found all the Inditements *Billa vera*, which when
olde father Samuell heard, he ſaide to his wife in the hearing of ma-
nie: A plague of God light vpon thee: for thou art ſhee that hath
brought vs all to this, and wee may thanke thee for it.

Then the Judge greweto ſentence, and aſked olde father Samuell
what hee had to ſaye for him ſelfe, why iudgement of death ſhoulde
not be pronounced on him: Whereat he aunſwered, that he had no-
thing to ſaye, but Lorde haue mercie on him. Then the Judge aſ-
ked olde mother Samuell what ſhee had to ſaye for her ſelfe, to ſtaye
Iudgement: Whereat ſhee aunſwered, that ſhe was with child: which
ſet all the companie on a great laughing, and ſhee her ſelfe more than
any other, becauſe as ſhee thought, there ſhould (for that cauſe) no

iudgement haue béene giuen. Her age was neere fourſcore, therefore the Iudge moued her to leaue that aunſwere: but in no caſe ſhee would be driuen from it, till at length, a Iury of women were impanelled, and ſworne to ſearch her: who gaue vp their verdit, that ſhee was not with childe, vnleſſe (as ſome ſaide) it was with the Diuell, & no marueile: for after ſhee was found guiltie, there went the forenamed Maiſter Henrie Pickering vnto her where ſhee ſtoode amongeſt the priſoners, to perſuade her to confeſſe the trueth, and amongſt other things ſhee confeſſed, that the forenamed William Langley, who gaue vnto her the Spirites, had carnall knowledge of her bodie, when ſhée receiued them. Some are of opinion, that it was the Diuel in mans likeneſſe.

Sol. After all this, the Iudge aſked Agnes Samuell the daughter, what ſhee had to ſay, why iudgement of Death ſhould not be giuen her. At which time, there was one (being a priſoner) ſtanding by her, that willed her to ſay that ſhee was alſo with childe. Nay, ſaide ſhee, that will I not do: It ſhall neuer be ſaid, that I was both a Witch and a whoore. And ſo the Iudge after verie ſound and diuine councel giuen ſeuerally to them all, proceeded to iudgement, which was vnto death. The next day, certeine godly men went to the priſon to perſwade the condemned parties to repentance, and to confeſſe their ſinnes to the world, and craue pardon at Gods mercifull hands: at which time, mother Samuell being aſked, by Maiſter Iohn Dorington Eſquire, one of her Maieſties Iuſtices of the Countie of Huntington, whether ſhee did not bewitch the Lady Cromwell? Shee ſaid no forſooth, I did not. Then her huſband old father Samuell ſtanding behind, and hearing her denie the ſame, ſaide, denie it not, but confeſſe the trueth: for thou didſt it one way or other.

¶ The confeſsion of the olde woman *Alice Samuel*, vnto certeine queſtions that were demaunded of her, by maſter Doctor *Chamberlin*, at the time and place of her execution being vpon the ladder.

FIrſt, being demaunded what the names of thoſe Spirites (wherewith ſhee bewitched) were called, ſhee ſaid, they were called Plucke, Catch, and White, the which names ſhee often repeated. Being aſked, whether ſhee had bewitched the Lady Cromwell to death or not:

not: Shee aunſwered, that shee had. Being asked with which of her Spirites shee did bewitch the said Lady to death: Shee said, with Catch. And being demaunded for what cause shee did it: Shee aunswered: For that the said Lady had caused some of her haire and her haire-lace to be burned: and that shee said, Catch willed her to be reuenged of the said Ladie: and that therupon the said Mather Samuell willed him go and do what he would. And being asked, what Catch said to her when he came backe againe: Shee confessed that he saide, that he had beene reuenged of her. Moreouer, shee confessed & vpon her death did say for trueth, that shee was guiltie of the death of the Lady Cromwell. Being demaunded, whether shee had bewitched Master Throckmortons children: Shee confessed, that shee had done it. Being asked, with which of her Spirites: Shee said, that it was Pluck. Being asked, what shee said to him, when shee sent him about that matter: Shee confessed, that shee willed him: go torment them, but not hurt them. Being asked, how long they should be in that case: Shee said, shee could not tell: and that shee did not see Plucke since Christmas last. Being asked, what shee did with White: Shee said, that shee neuer did hurt with him: and that shee had sent him to the Sea, and that he had sucked vpon her chinne, but the other two had not any reward. And likewise shee confessed, that shee had those Spirits of one, whose name (shee said) was Langley: where he dwelleth, shee knew not. And for that her husband would not confesse any thing of the witchcraft at the time of his death, nor of the priuitie of himselfe or his daughter, as accessaries to the same: It was demaunded of her, whether her husband was priuie to the death of the Lady Cromwell or not: Shee aunswered, he was.

Being demaunded, whether her husband was a Witch, or had any skill in witchcraft: shee said, he had, and could both bewitch & vnwitch: but touching her daughter, shee would in no sort confesse any thing, but sought by all meanes to cleere her. And for her daughter her selfe, shee confessed nothing at all touching the witchcraft, but being willed by Master doctor Chamberlin to say the Lordes prayer & the Créede when as shee stoode vpon the ladder readie to be executed, shee said the Lords prayer, vntil shee came to saye, But deliuer vs from euill, the which by no meanes shee could pronounce: and in the Creede shee missed verie much, and could not say, that shee beléeued the Catholike Church.

After

After the execution was ended, and that these three persons were throughly dead, the Jaylor (whose office it is to see them buried) stripped off their clothes, and being naked, he found vpon the bodie of the olde woman Alice Samuell, a little lumpe of flesh, in manner sticking out, as if it had beene a teate, to the length of halfe an inch, which both he and his wife perceining, at the first sight thereof, meant not to dissemble, because it was adioyning to so secrete a place, which was not decent to be seene. Yet in the ende, not willing to conceale so strange a mattee, and decently couering that priuie place a litle aboue which it grewe, they made open shewe therof vnto diuers that stoode by. After this, the Jaylors wife tooke the same teate in her hand, and seeming to straine it, there issued out at the first, as if it had beene beesenings (to vse the Jaylers word) which is a mixture of yellow milke and water. At the second time, there came out, in similitude as cleere Pylke, and in the ende verie bloud it selfe. For the trueth of this matter, it is not to be doubted of any: For it is not onely the Jaylers report vnto all that require of him: but there are fourtie others also in Huntingtonshire of honest conuersation, that are readie to confirme the same vpon their owne sight.

And thus ye haue the storie of these three Witches of Warboyes, so plainly and briefely, as may be deliuered vnto you. If any be desirous to know the present estate of these children, howe they are & haue beene since the death of these parties: you shall vnderstand, that since their day of execution, not any one of them haue had any fit at all: neither yet grudging or complaining of any such thing, but haue all of them beene in as good estate, and as perfect health as euer from their birth. Gods blessed name be euermore praised for the same. Amen.

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